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TODAY: LEISURE
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U.S., Welcoming Tehran's Gesture, Probes Potential For Direct Talks

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Thursday welcomed Iran's renewed overtures to the United States and began refining a strategy for drawing the government in Tehran toward direct talks.

On the morning after President Mohammed Khatami appealed for new understanding between the two nations, the White House spokesman said President Bill Clinton "appreciates those positive remarks" and would be watching "not just what Iran says but what Iran does."

In an extraordinary interview televised Wednesday night, Mr. Khatami called for wide-ranging unofficial exchanges to break down the "bulky wall of mistrust between us and the U.S. administration," implying for the first time that an informal dialogue could lead to the resumption of diplomatic ties after 18 years of unbroken hostility.

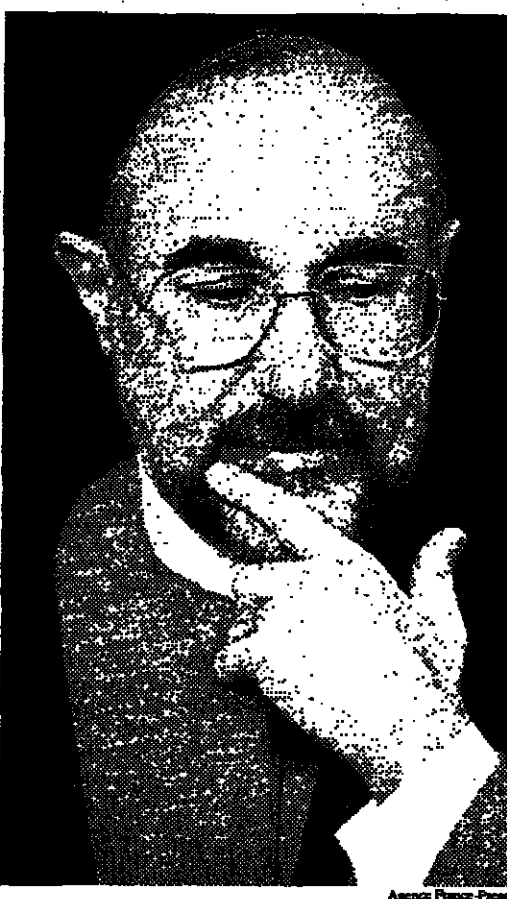
Mr. Khatami declared his solidarity with the "essence of the American civilization" and expressed regret for the 1979 hostage-taking that consolidated the Islamic revolution.

While strongly critical of U.S. governments, past and present, he said "there is no hostility between the two nations" and used a cautiously worded formula to suggest that negotiations "based on mutual respect" could "lead to positive results."

Mr. Khatami's 45-minute interview with CNN enlarged substantially on his remarks of Dec. 14, when he expressed his hope for a "thoughtful dialogue" with "the great people of the United States."

In response, U.S. policymakers said Thursday that they wanted to probe Iran's sincerity, not merely wait for encouraging changes in behavior.

"When Khatami was elected, I was frankly quite skeptical," said a foreign policy official. "Now I think there is quite a bit going on. The decision for the U.S. government is how to encourage change in a



Mr. Khatami called for wide-ranging exchanges to break down the "wall of mistrust."

way that doesn't compromise progress, and to the extent that there's a new coalescence around Khatami, that we don't ruin that."

In the interview, which was taped Tuesday in his office in Tehran, President Khatami called for an immediate "exchange of professors, writers, scholars, artists, journalists and tourists."

He twice asserted that Iran has "no need for political ties with the United States," but appeared to describe a map that might lead to those ties over time. New relations among intellectuals, he said, could "prepare for a change and create an opportunity to study a new situation."

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A Grim Portrait Of Iran's Past Clouds Prospect For Normal Ties

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — In September 1993, the Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei instructed his senior foreign affairs officials that their "first duty" was to cooperate with intelligence officers working to undermine secular and Western influence in the region and export the fundamentalist Islamic revolution.

To some diplomatic officials in the Middle East, this secret speech by Ayatollah Khamenei,

NEWS ANALYSIS

the substance of which was confirmed by three governments, was the beginning of a concerted effort to destabilize and "destroy" neighboring Gulf governments.

The officials contend that American and allied assets throughout the region were singled out for covert surveillance, radicals were brought to the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon for training in bombing and assassination techniques, and cells of sympathizers were formed in a half-dozen Middle East nations on the model of the Hezbollah group in Lebanon.

Following the dictums of the speech, according to this view, Iranian agents unleashed violence in Bahrain in December 1994, hatched subversive plots in Egypt and eventually undertook the successful truck bombing of a U.S. military barracks in Saudi Arabia in June 1996, killing 19 American airmen.

It is a seamless and grim picture of officially sanctioned terrorism, and it still hangs over discussion about reconciliation between Iran, neighboring Gulf states and the United States. Some Gulf officials today ask, how can they conduct friendly relations with a country whose top leader ordered his

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Sense of Confusion Engulfs Indonesia Government Seems Helpless As Economic Crisis Deepens

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

President Suharto of Indonesia faced the gravest economic and political crisis of his 32-year rule Thursday as Indonesia's currency and stock market suffered declines of historic proportions.

The military urged calm in the nation of 200 million people, but the government appeared to be stunned by the severity of the economic turmoil and powerless to halt it.

Some analysts said the cabinet had been weakened by divisions as powerful military and business factions tried to influence its economic decisions and jockey for favorable positions in any succession to Mr. Suharto.

Mr. Suharto has fashioned a highly centralized political system that depends on a strong and capable leader to hold it all together.

Rumors swirled around Jakarta that Mr. Suharto, who is 76 and widely considered to be in declining health, would not seek re-election for a seventh five-year term in March.



What's in Mr. Suharto's future?

"For the first time in three decades, there is a very real possibility that the head of government could change in the next 12 months," said Bruce Gale, regional manager of Political & Economic Risk Consultancy. That could lead, he said, to "important structural adjustments in the nation's political and economic systems."

The rupiah lost 12 percent of its value Thursday, with the dollar rising in New York to 9,400 rupiah, from 8,375 on Wednesday, while the Jakarta composite index fell 12 percent, to 3,471.1.

Traders said shoppers were frantically snapping up goods in the capital and number of other cities.

Lieutenant General Yunus Yosfiah, the head of the sociopolitical affairs division of the armed forces, told people to "have faith that the government is trying its best to handle the crisis," the official Antara news agency reported.

Indonesian military authorities have said publicly in recent days that they expect 2 million people may soon lose their jobs, and they have vowed to suppress protests.

Meanwhile, the Jakarta Post reported that a group of retired Indonesian army generals, politicians and other public figures wanted Mr. Suharto to step down because of his age and poor health.

In the past few days, the head of Indonesia's second-largest Islamic organization and a number of student bodies have also called on the country's legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, not to nominate Mr. Suharto for president when it meets in March.

But diplomats in Jakarta said that despite the increasing public calls for him

Thailand Appeals to G-7 for Help No Letup in Asia Chaos; Rupiah Falls Nearly 20%

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Stock markets and currencies fell sharply once again across Asia on Thursday, dragged down by financial turmoil and political uncertainty in Indonesia, where the rupiah lost nearly 20 percent of its value in a matter of hours.

Thailand's finance minister warned that the region's governments no longer had any hope of restoring confidence in their currencies by themselves and he issued an urgent appeal for assistance to the world's wealthiest nations, the Group of Seven.

Criticism by the United States and the International Monetary Fund that Indonesia was not serious about economic reforms sent the rupiah into a free fall that briefly reached as low as 10,000 rupiah per dollar and drove Jakarta stocks down 12 percent. Just six months ago, the currency traded at 2,500 rupiah per dollar, and it has lost 42 percent of its value in the first few days of 1998.

With currency reserves in the region depleted and strict International Monetary Fund requirements not to close off markets, analysts and traders said there was now very little officials could do to prevent their currencies from falling.

"Further cooperation from the major countries of the world would calm down the situation, which now is driven by sentiment more than by economic fundamentals," said Thailand's finance minister, Tarrin Nimmanhaeminda. "Every country is trying to help themselves, but the rapidity of the events make it very difficult to manage on an individual country level."

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West Will Approach Algeria Over Massacres

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — As nearly daily massacres continue to add to the count of murdered civilians in Algeria — about a thousand people have died in the past 10 days — Western nations are beginning to gear up their diplomatic machinery to respond to public revulsion at the unchecked terror.

On Thursday, the 15 countries of the European Union decided unanimously to dispatch a delegation to Algeria to explore with the military-backed govern-

ment ways to end the violence that has taken up to 80,000 lives since 1992.

"We cannot and must not watch passively as the murder in Algeria takes place," said the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel.

[The Algerian foreign minister, Ahmed Aitaf, said Thursday that his government welcomed a fact-finding EU mission as long as it planned to confront "terrorism," Reuters reported.]

[The British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said in a statement that the EU delegation would comprise representatives from Britain, which took over the

rotating EU presidency on Jan. 1; from Luxembourg, EU president for the last half of 1996, and from Austria, which will take over the presidency July 1.

[A Foreign Office spokesman said it was not yet clear when the visit by EU officials from the three countries would take place.]

"We now have agreement in principle with our EU partners that a troika mission at official level should visit Algeria," Mr. Cook said. "This is an important initial step which will help the EU get a clearer picture of the situation on the ground. It will also enable the EU

to make clear to the Algerian government the concern felt in Europe about the security situation in Algeria and our desire to offer humanitarian assistance."

The Canadian government, meanwhile, said Thursday that a senior diplomat, Claude Lavardure, would go to Algeria in the next few days to evaluate the situation. Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy underscored his concern about the killings and "reiterated to the relevant authorities the need for greater transparency."

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AGENDA

240 Years in Jail for Trade Center Blast

Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center blast, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without parole.

Judge Kevin Duffy of U.S. District Court said Mr. Yousef would spend the rest of his life in solitary confinement. He was sentenced to a total of 240 years.

Judge Duffy called Mr. Yousef "a follower of death and destruction," saying: "It was your god, your master, your only devotion."

"Yes, I am a terrorist and am proud of it," Mr. Yousef said. "I support terrorism."

Saying that a publisher might be "perverse enough to buy your story," Judge Duffy also fined Mr. Yousef \$4.5 million and ordered him to pay \$250 million in damages to ensure that any gain would go to his victims.

Six people were killed and about 1,000 wounded in the February 1993 World Trade Center blast. In November, he was found guilty on 11 counts in connection with the blast. Page 10.

Unabomber Suspect Seeks to Defend Self

Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber suspect accused of a string of bombings that killed three people, again disrupted the opening of his trial in Sacramento, California, as he proposed Thursday to serve as his own attorney.

Mr. Kaczynski's request, announced by his defense lawyer, Judy Clarke, followed a week of wrangling over how he would be represented in the case and put the trial on hold again as his lawyers and Judge Garland Burrell discussed what the next move should be.

Ms. Clarke said the mental illness defense planned by the lawyers was a situation her client "cannot endure."

Mr. Kaczynski tried twice this week to fire his current legal team.

Judge Burrell gave lawyers for both sides a brief break to discuss the implications of the request.

Mr. Kaczynski, 55, has pleaded not guilty to charges that he carried out four of the 16 bombings attributed to the Unabomber, killing two Sacramento men. If he is convicted, he could face the death penalty. Page 3.



UK Pres

EURO OPTIMIST — Prime Minister Tony Blair predicted a "new era" for Britain in the European Union in London on Thursday. Page 5.

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The Dollar			
New York	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
DM	1.8215	1.8258	
Pound	1.8125	1.8288	
Yen	132.695	131.885	
FF	6.0925	6.104	
The Dow			
	Thursday close	previous close	
	7802.62	7902.27	
S&P 500			
	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
change	959.04	964.00	

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Korean President-Elect Blames Strongman Rule People Were 'Deceived' on Economy, Kim Says

By Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Service

ILSAN, South Korea — President-elect Kim Dae Jung of South Korea on Thursday attributed much of Asia's financial crisis to governments that lie to their people and authoritarian leaders who have placed economic growth ahead of democratic freedoms.

"Many of the leaders of Asian society have been saying that military dictatorship was the way and democracy was not good for their nations," Mr. Kim said, in a 90-minute interview with the Washington Post at his home in this suburb of Seoul.

"They concentrated only on economic development," he said, without specifying any nations but referring to "Asian-style democracy," in which governments are built around a single strong leader who controls economic policy.

"I believe that the fundamental cause of the financial crisis, including here, in Korea, is because of placing economic development ahead of democracy," he said.

Mr. Kim, a crusader for democracy and human rights who was imprisoned,

exiled, sentenced to death and survived assassination attempts at the hands of South Korea's previous military dictators, also said he hoped his life would inspire his nation's youth.

"If parents can tell their kids: 'Look at Kim Dae Jung: live upright, put your effort into a good cause and you will be successful,' then I think my life would be very meaningful," said Mr. Kim, who won the presidency last month on his fourth attempt over the past quarter-century.

Mr. Kim also reaffirmed his "100 percent commitment" to the \$60 billion bailout of his country's crippled economy, led by the International Monetary Fund. Although the Fund is demanding tough changes that are expected to lead to massive layoffs and corporate bankruptcies, Mr. Kim, who has close ties with the nation's militant labor unions, said he believed he would be able to negotiate a deal to avert strikes that could hamper the recovery of one of the world's largest economies.

Mr. Kim described South Korea's relationship with the United States as "mutually beneficial" on matters of

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Beset by Crime, Germany to Loosen Bugging Curbs

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — The German government announced a major change in civil liberties

law on Thursday that will grant the police far greater powers to plant bugging devices in private homes to collect evidence against criminal suspects.

The landmark change, reached after delicate negotiations between Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing conservatives and the opposition Social Democrats, will permit eavesdropping practices banned by the constitution since 1945 because of widespread abuses during the Nazi era.

Germany has maintained some of the West's strictest privacy protections because of the Nazi legacy, but anxiety about soaring crime rates impelled political leaders to break with postwar tradition and give the police one of the key crime-fighting tools they have long demanded to cope with drug smuggling and other organized criminal activities.

"This is a decisive step toward more effective ways to fight crime," Interior

Minister Manfred Kanther said. "We can now keep surveillance on suspected gangster apartments and we will be able to better fight money laundering."

Leaders of Mr. Kohl's coalition and the Social Democrats said their pact ensured that both houses of Parliament could pass the measure quickly so that German police will be able to coordinate surveillance operations with colleagues from other countries where similar snooping practices have been permitted for years.

But the agreement was quickly attacked by leftist politicians, civil libertarians and journalists as a threat to basic democratic freedoms in postwar Germany that have guaranteed the privacy of a person's home from intrusions by the state.

The Greens party and the former Communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism lambasted their opposition

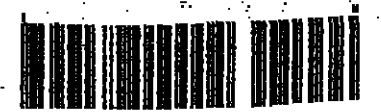
partners, the Social Democrats, for supporting the controversial legislation which they claimed was motivated by short-term interests ahead of national elections next September.

"The Social Democratic party is now an accomplice to the further demolition of our constitution," said Juergen Trittin, chairman of the Greens, who are hoping to enter government later this year as part of a Red-Green coalition headed by the Social Democrats. "The Greens reject any attack on the inviolability of the private home as guaranteed in the constitution."

German journalists also criticized the legislation, saying it would violate free press guarantees because the police would gain the authority to bug reporters' homes in their hunt for their sources suspected of criminal activities.

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Newsstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	11.300
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1.800 CFA	Catar	10.00 QF
Egypt	5.50	Reunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10 SF
Gabon	1.100 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Italy	2.800 Lire	Spain	225 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA	Tunisia	1.250 Din
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mail (Eur.)	\$1.20



THE AMERICAS

In Canada, a Mea Culpa

Government Apologizes to Native Peoples

By Howard Schneider
Washington Post Service

TORONTO — The government has apologized to the Indian, Inuit and other aboriginal peoples of Canada for decades of mistreatment, offering an emotional atonement for policies that sought to stamp out native culture and confined Indian children in often abusive government-run schools.

Following an Indian drum and dance performance, and clutching a ceremonial feather, Jane Stewart, Canada's minister of Indian affairs and northern development, read an official "Statement of Reconciliation" that acknowledged the damage done to native populations beginning with the arrival of Europeans in the 15th century and running through modern efforts to suppress native religion and language.

The statement dealt in broad terms with an array of offenses, including the hanging of Louis Riel, a leader of the Metis people — descendants of intermingling between early French explorers and native tribes — who was convicted of treason and executed in 1885 for his role in a Saskatchewan uprising.

Ms. Stewart said she hoped the statement would inaugurate a new relationship be-

tween Canada and its original residents, and she pledged \$250 million for a "healing fund" to help those who suffered physical and mental abuse at the government-run schools. The schools were not closed until the 1970s and left a legacy of emotional scars among generations of Indians who remember them as places where they were forbidden to speak their languages and, in the harshest cases, physically abused.

Ms. Stewart said, "As a country, we are burdened by past actions that resulted in weakening the identity of aboriginal peoples, suppressing their languages and cultures, and outlawing spiritual practices." She read the statement from a scroll that was presented to representatives of Canada's five major Indian organizations.

"The government of Canada today formally expresses to all aboriginal people in Canada our profound regret for past actions of the federal government which have contributed to these difficult pages in the history of our relationship together," she said.

Along with the healing fund, Ms. Stewart said the government would begin working with Indian leaders to develop health, counseling

and economic development programs to address unemployment, teenage suicide and other chronic social problems plaguing many native communities.

Native affairs have remained among Canada's most pressing domestic concerns. Indians are the fastest-growing segment of Canadian society.

Many provinces, most notably British Columbia, are involved in treaty negotiations with Indian groups over basic questions of land title and access to resources that were not settled in the colonial era. On several occasions, courts here have recognized aboriginal rights to harvest resources contained on traditional lands — limiting what was assumed to be provincial jurisdiction over forests and fishing grounds, for example.

The statement of reconciliation, therefore, is not only an ethical expression of sorrow but also an acknowledgment that Canada still needs to resolve questions about how to divide the wealth of the land between cultures. After decades of legal battles, time-consuming talks and sometimes violent protests by natives asserting traditional land claims, the statement is a step in the right direction, said Phil Fontaine, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, a coalition of native groups.

"For the first time in history," Mr. Fontaine said, "this government has accepted that Canada cannot achieve its full potential without the success of native peoples who form 2.7 percent of the population but loom much larger in Canada's history and self-image."

Not all Indian leaders were as accepting of the government's comments as Mr. Fontaine. Some said the apology was not strong enough and that the remedial steps announced were insufficient for a government expecting to run a budget surplus.

Jones Will Attend Clinton Deposition

Face-to-Face Meeting Is Expected

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Paula Jones intends to confront President Bill Clinton face-to-face when he testifies in her sexual harassment suit against him, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Jones said. The president's lawyer responded that she had the right to be there.

"I don't know when or where the deposition will be taken, but whenever it is, Paula will be there," Susan Carpenter McMillan, the spokeswoman, said Wednesday.

"Paula Corbin Jones will be sitting across that table from William Jefferson Clinton," and he is "going to have to look her straight in the eye and either be forced to tell the truth or perjure himself," Ms. McMillan added.

Robert Bennett, Mr. Clinton's lawyer, said he would not challenge Mrs. Jones's request to be present at the deposition. "She's a party to the case and she can be there," he said.

On Thursday, Mr. Bennett said the case would not be settled out of court because advisers to Mrs. Jones wanted to profit financially from a trial.

"I think we're going to go to trial for two fundamental

reasons," Mr. Bennett said in a television interview.

"One, Paula Jones and her principal advisers," he said, "are of the view that they will sell more books with a splashy trial. I'm not guessing, I'm not speculating, I know that for a fact." Mr. Bennett said those advisers included Mrs. Jones's husband and her spokeswoman.

"Secondly, the people funding the litigation, such as the Rutherford Institute, they want to embarrass the president," Mr. Bennett added, referring to the Virginia-based nonprofit conservative group.

As it stands now, Mr. Clinton is to testify on Jan. 17 at the White House. But that may be delayed.

Mr. Bennett said that disclosure of the deposition date on Wednesday by The Washington Times made it likely that the deposition would be delayed, in part because it could create a media spectacle with Mrs. Jones's arrival at the White House.

"That's a very soft date now that it has been leaked," Mr. Bennett said.

Mr. Clinton has denied Mrs. Jones's allegations and said he does not recall meeting her. (AP, Reuters)

Away From Politics

• A 3-year-old girl who contracted polio from a dose of oral vaccine has received a multimillion-dollar settlement. Marian Fadyel cannot breathe on her own or feed herself and has limited use of her limbs. A judge in San Mateo County, California, appointed her parents to handle the settlement that will pay them \$1 million outright and \$350,000 more each year for her care. The child's medical bills so far total \$1.5 million. (AP)

• An Idaho state judge ordered an FBI sharpshooter to stand trial for involuntary manslaughter in the killing of Vicki Weaver, the wife of the white separatist Randy Weaver, during the 1992 siege at Ruby Ridge. The judge's finding of probable cause in the case against Lon Horiuchi is a rare instance in which a federal agent has faced a criminal trial for killing a suspect, the prosecutor said. (WP)

• Two F-16 fighter jets collided over the Utah desert, forcing one pilot to eject before his jet crashed and burned. The other pilot landed safely, and neither was seriously injured. (AP)

• An animal trainer remained in critical condition with severe head wounds after a tiger he had raised from infancy bit his head and refused to let go. The trainer's brother shot and killed the 350-pound (158-kilogram) tiger after the attack. Richard Chipperfield, 24, was attacked while a dozen tigers were inside a ring for a practice of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus in St. Petersburg, Florida. (AP)



A Zapatista rebel standing guard at a guerrilla base in Oventic, Chiapas. Villagers who had fled after the Mexican Army set up a post nearby returned this week.

Chiapas Governor Resigns

Official Is Accused of Ignoring Warnings of Massacre

By Julia Preston
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — The governor of the southern state of Chiapas has resigned, becoming the latest high-level politician to fall in the aftermath of the December killings of 45 Indian villagers by a pro-government paramilitary gang in a hamlet in his state.

Governor Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro, who has been accused by Roman Catholic Church and opposition leaders in Chiapas of ignoring many warning signs of tension in the region, requested an indefinite leave of absence, saying only that Chiapas "needs a new strategy."

President Ernesto Zedillo did not ask directly for the resignation, officials close to Mexico's leader said, but sent numerous signals since the Dec. 22 killings that he was dissatisfied with the Chiapas governor, who is a member of Mr. Zedillo's political party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

"The message is clear: In this case we are not going to protect anyone," an official said. "Human lives were lost because the governor did not have a clear view of what was happening in his state. He should have had a grip on it, and he didn't."

Immediately after the killings the president wrested the investigation out of the hands of state authorities and handed it over to the country's attorney general.

Several senior officials of Mr. Ruiz Ferro's

administration, including his chief of staff and top security official, are being investigated by the federal authorities for possible criminal negligence in connection with the violence in the hamlet of Acteal, in the Tzotzil Indian township of Chenalhó.

A top Catholic prelate, the Reverend Gonzalo Luarte, said he called the state security chief at midday on Dec. 22 to relay reports of gunfire received from villagers in Chenalhó. Although there is a joint state police and army outpost within a mile of the hamlet, security forces were never dispatched to the scene, even while the shootings of unarmed Indian refugees, including many women and children, continued throughout the afternoon.

On Jan. 3, Mr. Zedillo dismissed the interior minister, Emilio Chuayffert Chernor, who had been his top political operator. Mr. Chuayffert was in charge of guiding negotiations with the Zapatista rebels. The talks broke down in late 1996, leaving the conflict to fester.

So far, Mr. Ruiz Ferro has not been the target of a criminal investigation.

Some 46 people, most of them Tzotzil Indians from neighboring villages in the same township, have been arrested on charges up to first degree murder in the killings. The Chenalhó mayor, Jacinto Arias Cruz, also a member of the government party, was accused of organizing and arming the gang of killers and is in jail on charges of assault and conspiracy.

Miami Mayor's Antics Keep Radio Call-In Lines Ringing

By Donald P. Baker
Washington Post Service

MIAMI — Even if the voice on the answering machine at The Miami Herald had not been a familiar one, the caller left no doubt: "This is the mayor of Miami," said Xavier Suarez.

The volatile mayor, whose actions and antics have shaken an already unstable city government — his first three appointees as city manager quit rather than heed his demand to fire a popular police chief — warned the newspaper to "be nice to me, my people, my citizens and my city" or face the loss of \$200,000 a year in city ads.

"I note that we are subsidizing you and your newspaper with ads related to official notices of the city," Mr. Suarez said.

Derisively referring to the Herald's publisher, David Lawrence Jr., as the "maximum leader of the free world for the publishing company," the mayor threatened to "figure out every possible way of advertising in any possible newspaper except yours" if he "didn't get better treatment."

The newspaper, which has

shadowed Mr. Suarez closely since he took office Nov. 14 — the day after he was elected, having barely survived a primary on the strength of absentee ballots that are still being investigated for possible fraud — responded by making his recorded call available on the Herald's call-in information service.

Mr. Suarez, a Harvard-educated lawyer who served as mayor from 1989 to 1993, promised to take swift action to get the city back on track upon being elected Miami's first executive mayor. The city's voters approved a charter change in September that gave the mayor greater powers.

But few expected that in seeking that goal Mr. Suarez, 48, would:

• Knock on the door of a retired city employee late at night to confront her about a critical letter she had written to him, only to be greeted by a 38-caliber gun and a request to go away.

• Pledge to make Miami the world's cleanest city by the end of 1997, even if garbage workers had to work overtime, an idea the workers' union quickly vetoed.

• Burst into tears in front of reporters on two occasions. He later explained that "my son told me I have to show my emotions. That's impact. That's a leader who is getting things done. Someone who shares warmth. That's Fio-rella LaGuardia. That's Ed Koch," he said, referring to two former mayors of New York.

• Drive to the Herald in his bathrobe in the middle of the night to buy an early edition of the newspaper, saying he had a "hunch" that it would contain a negative story about him.

• Make an impromptu visit to Mr. Koch and the developer Donald Trump during a trip to New York in which he unsuccessfully tried to convince Wall Street analysts that Miami's budget crisis was a myth.

Carl Haasen, a Herald columnist, wrote at that time that before Mr. Suarez came home, he should drop by Bellevue, the psychiatric hospital, for a checkup "because the mayor is either certifiably nuts or seriously undermedicated."

But it is not just columnists who are talking about the

mayor's actions. His conduct is debated daily on the city's radio stations, especially the Spanish-language ones, and in Little Havana, the heart of Mr. Suarez's Cuban-American constituency. Many support his attack on the Herald and other bastions of the business establishment.

And a University of Miami political scientist, Annette Seisnacker, said that Mr. Suarez was right in "legitimately testing the boundaries" of his new powers by attempting to replace the police chief and reduce the number of city workers. But she said he was wrong in continuing to push issues that he could not win.

A former mayor, Maurice Ferre, said on a Spanish radio program: "He is destroying Miami."

Despite its glistening skyline and shimmering beaches, multicultural Miami is the nation's fourth poorest city, still growing because of an unending stream of legal and illegal immigrants. Many affluent residents have fled to the suburbs.

Joe Carolla, the former mayor who was defeated by Mr. Suarez in a runoff election, said last fall that Miami

had "just gone through the worst year in our history." "We not only had the biggest scandal," he said, "but we probably had the worst financial time of any major city."

With a deficit of \$70 million, equal to about a quarter of its \$275 million annual budget, the city had to endure a state-imposed oversight commission that still, to the dismay of Mr. Suarez, controls local spending.

The corruption, unearthed in an FBI investigation called Operation Greenpalm, has resulted in prison sentences for a former city manager for accepting bribes; the resignation of the port director amid charges of lavish entertainment and illegal campaign contributions — offset when

he was hired as a consultant to clean up the mess he had left — and the indictment of one of the city's five commissioners, or council members, on charges of money laundering and mortgage fraud.

That commissioner, Humberto Hernandez Jr., whose predecessor is serving a 27-month prison term for accepting a \$200,000 payoff from a company bidding on a city computer contract, promptly was tapped by Mr. Suarez to head an investigation into the state attorney's inquiry of voter fraud.

I. L. Plummer Jr., a city commissioner, said Wednesday that Mr. Suarez is "going too fast. People have urged him to slow down, take things easier, be more methodical in his actions."

POLITICAL NOTES

Cisneros Pleads Not Guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Henry Cisneros, the former housing secretary, pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges that he lied to conceal payments made to his former mistress while he was under consideration as a cabinet member.

Mr. Cisneros appeared at the federal court arraignment along with the woman, Linda Jones, who is also charged with participating in the conspiracy to obstruct the FBI background investigation as Bill Clinton was preparing to take office.

Mr. Cisneros is accused of concealing that he paid Ms. Jones more than \$250,000 to maintain silence about their affair. Most of the money was paid before Mr. Cisneros became head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but the indictment charges he paid Ms. Jones nearly \$80,000 his first year in office.

Two former employees, John Rosales and Sylvia Arce-Garcia, also pleaded not guilty to charges that they took part in the conspiracy to conceal their boss's payments to Ms. Jones. Both had worked at Mr. Cisneros's San Antonio communications company and followed him to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin set the trial for Nov. 2. (AP)

Fix California, Wilson Urges

SACRAMENTO, California — Governor Pete Wilson, saying that the "state of the state is strong and getting stronger every day," warned lawmakers at their opening legislative session that California's prosperity was still threatened by crumbling public facilities and expanding government.

Mr. Wilson said the state had a duty — especially during good times — to repair outdated buildings and structures. He asked lawmakers to place nearly \$7 billion in construction bonds on the ballot this year for state schools and colleges, parks, prisons, water facilities and environmental resources.

At the same time, Mr. Wilson responded to Republican concerns about such major new spending plans by announcing that he would seek voter approval for a new and tighter cap on annual budget growth.

"California has become the powerhouse of the Pacific," he said. "But a word of caution. The nightmare of the early 1990s wasn't just a recession. California was losing jobs wholesale because we'd ceased to be attractive to investors and job creators."

"Never, ever again can we let that happen to California," he added. (LAT)

Quote/Unquote

Moorhead Kennedy, a former U.S. embassy hostage in Iran, on President Mohammed Khatami's call for new contacts with Americans: "They were arguments very familiar to me from my hostage days. Things haven't changed that much. What came through very clearly was their view, they have nothing against Americans. It's simply U.S. government policy that they disagree with in certain key areas." (AP)

Unabomber Suspect Delays Trial Again

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SACRAMENTO, California — Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber suspect accused of a string of bombings that killed three people, again proposed the opening of his trial as he proposed Thursday to serve as his own attorney.

Mr. Kaczynski's request, announced by his defense lawyer, Judy Clarke, followed a week of wrangling over how he would be represented in the case and put would be represented in the case and put the trial on hold again as his lawyers and Judge Garland Burrell discussed what the next move should be.

Ms. Clarke said the mental illness

defense planned by the lawyers — over their client's bitter objections — is a "situation that he cannot endure."

Judge Burrell gave lawyers for both sides a brief break to discuss the implications of the request.

Mr. Kaczynski tried twice this week to fire his current legal team.

Judge Burrell called Mr. Kaczynski's request Thursday "disturbing" but did not immediately indicate what he planned to do.

Mr. Kaczynski, 55, has pleaded not guilty in Sacramento to charges that he carried out four of the 16 bombings

attributed to the shadowy figure nicknamed the Unabomber since 1978, killing two local men. If he is convicted, he could face the death penalty.

He delayed Monday's scheduled start of opening statements by bringing up the dispute with his lawyers. But at a hearing Wednesday, Judge Burrell appeared to close the issue by ruling that the defendant should be represented by his current, court-appointed lawyers.

In another development that could further delay the trial, an alternate juror called in sick Thursday.

(Reuters, AP, AP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Phnom Penh Bans 6 Papers For 'Defaming' Leadership

Reuters

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian Information Ministry suspended six opposition newspapers Thursday on the grounds that they had defamed the country's leaders and threatened national security.

It instructed the Interior Ministry to seize all copies of the papers on newsstands and banned companies from printing the publications. The papers have recently published stinging attacks on the coup leader in Cambodia, Hun Sen.

The Information Ministry cited one article comparing the Cambodian leader to a dog and others accusing him of sympathizing with Vietnam and seeking to intimidate Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the former co-prime minister, who was deposed in a coup last year.

"Those six newspapers have published false news that curses and defames the leaders of the royal government, curses and defames our national institutions, affects national security and political stability and violates the press law," the secretary of state for information, Khien Kanharith, wrote in a letter to the Interior Ministry.

The Cambodian-language press is known for its strong partisanship and tough attacks on politicians.

Cambodia's press law says newspapers cannot publish articles that threaten national security, and several Cambodian newspapers have recently been suspended under that rule.

In a letter to printing companies, Mr. Khien Kanharith warned that the authorities would punish companies violating the order to halt printing of the six newspapers.

The newspapers that were suspended were Samleang Samapheap, Antarakum, Kunmit Kan Khmer, Proyuth, Neak Tosu and Kolvotth Angkor.

On Wednesday, Mr. Khien Kanharith dropped a threat to expel Ed Fitzgerald, a Canadian correspondent for the Asia Business News network, who was accused of overly negative reporting. The Information Ministry accused some journalists last month of becoming mouthpieces for extremists and warned reporters to make their articles more balanced.



A Cambodian policeman reading a newspaper while on break Thursday. He had put his AK-47 rifle aside.

BRIEFLY

Taiwan Delays Its Plan to Ship Nuclear Waste to North Korea

TAIPEI — Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council said Thursday that Taiwan Power Co. had not dropped a plan to ship nuclear waste to North Korea, but it was delayed by a review to certify the secretive Stalinist state's installations.

"The North Korean nuclear waste project is still undergoing the review process," Chiu Tzu-tsung, director of the government council's Radwaste Administration, said by telephone.

"We are waiting for Taipower to submit documentation to show that North Korea has completed construction of the waste site," he added. "The plan will be carried out after we finish our review."

On Wednesday, the nuclear power news agency NucNet, quoting Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council, said that Taipower had shelved the plan and would propose a new site on Taiwan to store low-level radioactive waste.

Mr. Chiu said he was unaware of the NucNet report but acknowledged recent local media speculation that the plan might be abandoned. (Reuters)

Nepal Leader Asks for Elections

KATMANDU, Nepal — Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa of Nepal recommended new elections following a threatened no-confidence vote by the Communist opposition.

State radio said Mr. Thapa had asked King Birendra to dissolve Parliament and schedule a date for elections.

The Himalayan kingdom's three-month-old centrist government is the fourth since November 1994 elections produced a hung Parliament. Mr. Thapa took office on Oct. 6.

China Sends Relief to Province

BEIJING — Authorities in China's northwestern Qinghai Province have sent grain, gasoline and diesel fuel to areas where heavy snowfalls have killed livestock and threatened nomadic herds, a local official said Thursday.

"The snowstorms affected about 30,000 people in the area," said the official in Yushu city. "Some suffered from snow blindness and frostbite."

Yushu, about 40 kilometers north of the border that separates Qinghai and Tibet, has been hit by 40 snowstorms since September. No deaths have been reported. (Reuters)

Taliban Denies Massacre Charge

KABUL — The ruling Taliban Islamic movement in Afghanistan said Thursday that its forces were not in the area of a reported massacre of more than 600 civilians in the northeast of the country on Jan. 1 and 2. It said the killings could have been the work of opposition forces.

The opposition alliance accuses retreating Taliban forces of having killed the civilians.

Taliban also announced that it had released 28 prisoners of war from the opposition. (Reuters)

INDONESIA: A Sense of Confusion in Jakarta as Currency and Stocks Plunge Further

Continued from Page 1

to step aside — unusual in a country where politics is marked by deference to authority — Mr. Suharto, a retired army general, is likely to be chosen again by the assembly, which he effectively controls.

They said that in announcing a budget Tuesday that called for increased spending, Mr. Suharto was seeking to minimize social and political unrest before the March presidential elections. The budget was criticized by analysts and officials from the United States and the International Monetary Fund for not

meeting austerity targets agreed to in connection with a \$40 billion standby loan for Indonesia. Analysts also said Mr. Suharto appeared reluctant to subject his family's extensive business interests to the full rigor of IMF-mandated reforms.

"His declining health will increase the Suharto family's desire to protect its interests," said David Brown, senior associate at the Asia Pacific Policy Center in Washington. "There are worrying signs of family pressures to reverse reforms and force out Finance Minister Mar'ie Muhammad."

Uncertainty over Mr. Suharto's

policies, health and political intentions, and his refusal to heed calls to designate a vice president and successor immediately are contributing to the panic selling of the rupiah and stocks, analysts said.

"We now have a weak president in Indonesia," said Mr. Gale of Political & Economic Risk Consultancy. "And if he stands again, we could very well continue to have one at a time when strong leadership is needed."

"That will be bad news for the economy," he added. "You'll have policy paralysis in the government."

On Wednesday, the Clinton admin-

istration warned Indonesia that it was crucial that it begin complying with the terms of the IMF bailout. Washington thus joined the IMF in sending Mr. Suharto a blunt message: If Indonesia does not fulfill its reform commitments, the money will be cut off.

"We've tried the quiet approach," one official told The New York Times. "Now the message is being sent through the markets."

Within the Clinton administration, a debate has already begun over how to handle Indonesia in coming months. The Times reported, Treasury officials have made clear that unless Indonesia complies with terms of the IMF accord, continuing support would undercut the credibility of other IMF bailouts around the world.

No Panic in the Government

Keith B. Richburg of the Washington Post reported from Hong Kong:

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said there were no emergency meetings to deal with the crisis, and no sense of panic among government officials. "So far, what I've been hearing are expressions of optimism on the government side, sticking it out and receiving more punches," he said.

"There's no sense of panic, so we'll just keep on watching and see how long these punches will go on," he added.

He said Indonesians had been cushioned from their country's economic collapse because, so far, prices have not markedly increased, and most people still operate in a rupiah-only economy.

A journalist in Jakarta said by telephone that there were few visible signs so far that Indonesia was careening toward economic disaster. Prices for rice and cooking oil have increased as much as 30 percent. But transportation costs, a key measure, have remained virtually unchanged since the onset of the crisis, with the government still holding down petroleum prices through costly subsidies.

"Most people are blissfully unaware of the real situation," the journalist said.



Shoppers lining up to buy basic foodstuffs in Jakarta on Thursday as rumors of sharp price increases spread through the Indonesian capital after the rupiah lost 16 percent of its value in a single trading day.

KIM: President-Elect Blames Asian Financial Crisis on Authoritarian Government

Continued from Page 1

economic trade and security. He supported the continued presence of 37,000 American troops to deter aggression from Stalinist North Korea. And Mr. Kim, who is seen as far more moderate toward the North than the current president, Kim Young Sam, said he would move "aggressively" to provide emergency food aid to the North. The president-elect said that his hopes to engage Pyongyang more openly — perhaps even through a meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il — were well known to the North Koreans.

"We are just waiting for their response," he said.

Two days after his 74th birthday, Mr. Kim appeared rested, robust and confident as he discussed the triumph and tragedy of his life, and the severe problems facing the nation he will lead when he is sworn in on Feb. 25. Mr. Kim's house is just 16 kilometers (10 miles) from the tense Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas; the highway to his town is lined with a fence topped

with coils of barbed wire to keep North Korean agents from coming ashore from the Han River.

Mr. Kim laughed when he noted the irony that government security agents were stationed at his house, much as they were during his years of house arrest in the 1980s, when he lived in a house in Seoul. Then, they were imprisoning a man condemned as a threat to the nation; now they are guarding a man about to become its chief executive.

"These people are now protecting me; before they were trying to contain me," Mr. Kim said. "The thought of doing this for five years in the Blue House makes me a little uneasy, even embarrassed."

Mr. Kim spoke at length about the financial crisis facing South Korea, contending that the nation needs a thorough reform of government and corporate financial structures that have led the nation to the brink of insolvency.

"In order to rejuvenate the Korean economy, I believe we have to do two things," Mr. Kim said. "The first is to increase our export volume, and the other is to induce foreign investment. We will

be very aggressive on both. Our new administration is going to take all these policies into account because of the requirement by the international community or the IMF, but we will take this opportunity to reform our economic system so that we can be competitive in the world economy."

Mr. Kim said he believed the problem in South Korea in the past had been a lack of the transparency in government and finance that comes in a fully functioning democracy. The Asian crisis that has swept from Indonesia and Thailand and Malaysia to South Korea, and now threatens Japan, is a failure to install a vibrant democracy to keep governments and markets accountable, he said.

"If we had true democracy in Korea, then the collusive intimacy between business and government and corruption would not have been as great here. And the wealth would not have been allocated to only a few people. Usually the dictatorship or authoritarian style of government lies to people. We've been told we are very wealthy, and we have been told to spend dollars abroad because we had too many of them. We had approximately \$40 billion of deficit

when President Kim Young Sam came in, and now we have \$150 billion of deficit. So basically we've been living well off the loans that we've been given, the people have been deceived, and that's why we have this financial crisis."

The ultimate solution to South Korea's problems, Mr. Kim said, was increased investment, especially by foreigners. He said Seoul was moving quickly toward removing limits on foreign ownership of stocks and real estate, as well as upgrading South Korea's murky accounting practices, which make it virtually impossible to assess the financial health of a company — or the government.

"We want to induce investment by making foreign investors feel they have no problems here," Mr. Kim said.

During the election campaign, Mr. Kim alarmed foreign investors and analysts by suggesting that Seoul should renegotiate the IMF deal. On Thursday, he acknowledged that he initially did not "understand the full depth" of the financial crisis, and he blamed President Kim for misleading him and the South Korean people.

U.S. Newsmen Quits Seoul Jail

But Libel Charge Keeps Korean-American in Country

The Associated Press

SEOUL — A Korean-American journalist imprisoned three weeks ago on libel charges was released Thursday pending trial.

Richard Choi, 49, a newsmen for Los Angeles-based KBLA-AM, or Radio Korea, was set free shortly after midnight but must remain in the country until the case is resolved, Seoul court officials said.

Violators of South Korea's libel laws can face up to five years in prison.

Mr. Choi was arrested four days after he reported from Seoul on Dec. 15 that the Hankook Ilbo-Korea Times newspaper group, which runs an FM radio station in Los Angeles that competes with Mr. Choi's station, was in financial trouble and might be merged with the Hyundai group.

Hankook filed a libel lawsuit against Mr. Choi, accusing him of malicious slander by trying to cripple the news-

paper during a nationwide financial crisis and causing the newspaper serious financial problems due to the withdrawal of advertising.

Hankook welcomed Mr. Choi's release but said it had no plan to drop the criminal charges it has filed against him.

"We also want to make sure that it's a mere criminal case, not a human-rights issue as being claimed by Radio Korea," said Lee Sang Suk, a spokesman for Hankook Ilbo.

Mr. Lee said his newspaper was considering filing a separate civil suit seeking financial compensation.

As one of the conditions of his release, Mr. Choi cannot leave South Korea until his case has been closed. No date has been set for his trial.

Mr. Choi's wife, Choi Young Yun, said, "All his travel documents, including his passport, have been seized by immigration officials. He can't leave without court permission."

INTERNATIONAL

Defense of Virginity Tests Enrages Turkish Women

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — Outraged Turkish feminists are demanding the resignation of the cabinet minister in charge of women's affairs after she defended the traditional practice of subjecting women to virginity tests.

In rural areas and urban neighborhoods populated by migrants from the countryside, parents and future husbands often take young women to be tested, either because of an impending marriage or sometimes merely if they are suspected of sexual activity.

The minister, Islay Saygin, has often seemed proud of her anti-feminist stance, asserting at various times that "women don't want to take part in politics" and that "three women don't equal one man."

Her appointment to Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's cabinet in June provoked some protests, but the campaign for her removal began in earnest after the publication last week of an interview she gave to an Istanbul newspaper.

Asked what she thought of virginity testing, she replied: "It doesn't bother me. I do whatever Turkish tradition and customs require of the family."

"Educating children is the duty of the father and mother," she asserted. "The state is the father."

Reminded that some young women have committed suicide rather than face the results of virginity tests, Ms. Saygin said: "Girls who committed suicide because they were forced to take a virginity test would have committed suicide anyway. I don't think this is really important. Five or three girls, it doesn't matter."

These and other comments infuriated feminists, many of whom have been grumbling about Ms. Saygin since her appointment.

"To be able to say that three or five women might die is not something out of the blue," said Halime Guner, co-founder of a women's group called Flying Broom. "She has always been like that."

Even one of Ms. Saygin's senior aides, Selma Acuner, disavowed her comments. "Virginity tests are a violation of individual rights," she said. "Reactions are pouring in to our ministry."

The case may prove a boon to the small but growing women's movement in Turkey. It has brought feminist groups together with more mainstream orga-

nizations such as the Republican Women's Association, which is dedicated to promoting the sexual equality that Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic, decreed in the 1920s.

"Women are not reluctant to participate in politics," said the association chairman, Senal Saruhan, after Ms. Saygin's interview was published. "They have been treated as second-class citizens."

Turkish law makes no reference to the practice of virginity tests, but many parents consider them reasonable.

"Sometimes headmasters of schools bring girls in for tests, and if it is found that the girls are not virgins, they can be expelled," said Sahika Yuksek, an Istanbul doctor who is among those calling for Ms. Saygin's resignation.

"Police often bring women in for tests if they are found in a flirtatious or romantic situation," she said. "If they are not virgins they can be charged with practicing prostitution or brought back to their families, where they often face serious problems."

BRIEFLY

Netanyahu Urges United Peace Effort

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scrambled to defuse tensions with Washington and his defense chief Thursday, urging unruly coalition partners not to stand still on Middle East peace.

Throwing down a challenge apparently aimed at hard-liners opposed to ceding West Bank land to the Palestinians, he said, "If you believe what I believe, you'll join me, and if you don't, you'll part with me."

Mr. Netanyahu spoke during a Middle East visit by the U.S. special envoy, Dennis Ross, and in the face of a threat by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, a relative moderate, to quit unless Mr. Netanyahu picked up the pace of peacemaking with Palestinians. (Reuters)

Angola Takes Over Diamond Region

LUANDA, Angola — The government said Thursday it was in full control of diamond-mining areas in a rich northern valley from which the former rebel UNITA movement had withdrawn.

"The government is now in complete control of all the mines in the Cuango Valley," Higinio Carneiro, deputy territorial administration minister, said. "We took over the last one on December 31."

Western diplomats confirmed that UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, had withdrawn from its Cuango mines, which produce some of the country's best gems.

They said the movement, which is now in formal parliamentary opposition to the government, had announced this on its radio station in early January. (Reuters)

Chile House Rejects Pinochet as Senator

SANTIAGO — Chile's lower house of Congress has passed a non-binding resolution rejecting General Augusto Pinochet's plan to step into a Senate seat that he is constitutionally allowed to keep for life.

In a 56-to-26 vote Wednesday on the largely symbolic resolution, the lawmakers expressed their "rejection and repudiation" of the plan.

The declaration, opposed by rightist legislators, said General Pinochet's presence in the Senate "does not contribute to reconciliation among Chileans nor to the encounter among civilians and military."

The constitution, written during General Pinochet's 1973-90 term in power, allows him to become a senator for life after stepping down as army commander, expected in the next few weeks. He has said he will take up the seat. (AP)

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or date.

EUROPE

Blair Sees 'New Era' of EU Relations

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair promised Thursday to play a leading role in the European Union as he opened Britain's presidency of the 15-nation bloc, and he expressed hope that the constructive approach would "open a new era of relations" with his partners on the Continent.

After a meeting between his cabinet and the 20-member European Commission, the executive agency of the Union, Mr. Blair said that despite sitting on the sidelines of monetary union for now, Britain would play a constructive role in leading a series of meetings culminating in the selection in early May of the countries that will adopt the planned single currency, the euro.

Mr. Blair also pledged to get membership negotiations with five East European countries and Cyprus off to a good start in March, and to press for reforms of EU farm and development policies that are a precondition for enlargement. Other British priorities for the six-month presidency include completing the single market, focusing EU employment efforts on labor-market reform, education and training, and trying to bolster EU cooperation in fighting crime and air pollution.

The presidency "presents a very great opportunity for Britain to show that by being constructive and engaged and positive, we can play a leading role in shaping Europe's future on the issues that really matter to people," he said.

Mr. Blair welcomed Mr. Blair's approach as "refreshing," and said he hoped the presidency would "transmit to the peoples of Europe the new spirit of dynamism, vigor and creativity that is once again the hallmark of the United Kingdom today."

On other issues, Mr. Blair said Britain would present proposals to deal with a recent influx of Kurdish immigrants at a meeting of EU foreign ministers on Jan. 26, but he said solutions were "not terribly easy to find."

He also appealed to Turkey to take up the offer of a seat at a conference between the Union and applicant countries in Eastern Europe, and insisted that the Union would open membership talks with Cyprus in March despite Ankara's threat to annex the island's Turkish half. He said it was vital that Turkey "does feel able to develop closer relations with the European Union."

The bulk of the EU agenda for the next six months is effectively predetermined, and Mr. Blair's line on issues like crime and jobs contained no radical departures from Britain's previous Conservative government. But his positive tone was a striking change from the confrontational attitude that marked relations between Britain and the Union under Prime Ministers John Major and Margaret Thatcher. Mr. Blair made clear that he wanted the presidency both to enhance Britain's

influence with its European partners, and to persuade a skeptical domestic audience of the benefits of EU membership.

In an interview with foreign journalists, Mr. Blair said he wanted people, particularly the young, to "see the European Union as a force for good in their lives, both economically and socially."

He extolled the EU as a motor for peace and prosperity in Europe and insisted that the Union did not threaten national identities.

"I am intensely British and patriotic," he said, "but I also feel myself as part of Europe."

Mr. Blair offered a pragmatic view of Europe, insisting that people "don't want some grand vision imposed on them from on high."

EU countries should increase cooperation in practical areas like crime and pollution, he said, and seek to ensure economic prosperity by completing the single European market.

Mr. Blair adhered closely to the tra-

ditional British view of the Union as a cooperative venture among European countries rather than the precursor to a United States of Europe. But he acknowledged an EU role that goes beyond pure economic matters like the single market and a common trade policy.

"If you look at the way the world is developing, countries that have interests in common are moving closer together, and not just in an economic but in a political sense as well," Mr. Blair said. "I see in time Europe moving closer together. But it's got to do it in a way that makes sense for each individual country."

Commission officials said Mr. Blair's new style, combined with Britain's long-standing advocacy of the single market and EU budget reform, would help the agency as it prepared detailed proposals in those areas in coming months. "It's one of the governments we're closest to," a senior commission official said.



Prime Minister Tony Blair, center, presiding over a meeting of EU commissioners in London on Thursday.

Chirac Criticizes Jospin's Jobs Policy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac, in his first comments on France's growing jobless movement, accused the left-wing government on Thursday of leaning too heavily on the public sector for job creation.

"One day or another, the day of reckoning will come," Mr. Chirac told a group of business and trade union leaders. "How can we bankroll the state at so high a level without slowing economic activity and employment through excessive taxes?"

Mounting protests by militant unemployed since mid-December have embarrassed the government of Prime

Minister Lionel Jospin, a Socialist, who made jobs creation his top priority in the June elections that put him in power.

Mr. Chirac, without referring to the protests, appeared to be warning the prime minister against a pledge of new jobs with public funds, although he said he did not object to fresh aid for those jobless in need of help.

The militant jobless, who have been holding sit-ins in unemployment offices since mid-December and took part in protest marches in several cities on Wednesday, want a "Christmas bonus" of 3,000 francs (\$500) and an immediate rise in base benefits for the long-term unemployed. The government says it

does not have the money. Mr. Jospin, meanwhile, called for cabinet discipline Thursday after two members of the cabinet who are not in his party broke ranks and sided with the protest by the unemployed.

Government sources said Mr. Jospin had reminded the ministers of the need for "the collegial functioning of government" and for "solidarity" at the first meeting of the year of the full cabinet.

Both Sports Minister Marie-George Buffet of the Communist Party and Environment Minister Dominique Voynet of the Greens came out in support of the protests.

Kiev Doubts Any Collapse at Chernobyl

Reuters

KIEV — The foundations of the concrete sarcophagus covering the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's fourth reactor are weakening but are not close to collapse, Ukrainian officials said Thursday.

"The foundations get worse and worse each year," Artur Korneyev, deputy director of operations at the encased reactor, said at the plant, 120 kilometers (70 miles) north of Ukraine's capital, Kiev.

"But there's no serious deterioration," he said.

The reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, spreading a radioactive cloud with disastrous environmental and human consequences. Hundreds of thousands

of people in Ukraine and neighboring Belarus had to be resettled away from land contaminated around the plant.

If the concrete sarcophagus constructed after the accident collapses, tons of radioactive dust in the stricken reactor could further poison Ukraine and neighboring Belarus.

"It's a seriously unstable structure," said Kostyantyn Rudyk, adviser on nuclear and radiation issues at Ukraine's environment ministry.

"You've seen the kind of cloud released when a building collapses, the dust would contaminate a wide area," he said.

Some experts estimate that the leaking sarcophagus contains about 34 tons of radioactive dust.

There are visible cracks in the crumbling casing, and one Ukrainian news agency reported this week that the roof was close to collapse.

Last month, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development said repair work on the reactor could start in April.

Twelve countries, the Group of Seven industrialized nations and the European Community have pledged close to half of the estimated \$760 million cost of the reconstruction plan.

The job is expected to take a decade to complete.

Mr. Korneyev said about 4,000 cubic meters (5,200 cubic yards) of radioactive waste had been removed from the tomb in 1997.

Greece Says Turks Violated Air Space

ATHENS — Greece said Thursday that 30 Turkish jet fighters violated its airspace across the Aegean Sea and that it had scrambled its air force to intercept them.

"These flights were not part of a military exercise. They took place from Thrace to Rhodes," said the spokesman, Dimitris Reppas.

Ankara denied there had been any violations. The Foreign Ministry said: "Turkish jets fly routinely over international airspace in the Aegean region."

makes church marriages legally binding and provides for religious classes in kindergartens. (Reuters)

A Prodding for Italy

ROME — Human rights groups in Italy urged the government Thursday to grant temporary asylum to all Kurdish refugees, even those not meeting the criteria for political asylum.

A letter to Prime Minister Romano Prodi signed by 13 organizations said that the government should adopt "extraordinary humanitarian protection measures for all Kurdish citizens who have come from Turkey and Iraq to flee war and violence."

Security officials from Turkey and six European Union states were meeting in Rome on Thursday to come up with a response to a recent wave of Kurdish refugees. (Reuters)

Polish Parliament Signs Vatican Pact

WARSAW — The new Parliament of Poland, now dominated by center-right parties, ratified a treaty with the Vatican on Thursday that had been stalled for four years by the previous leftist legislature.

The concordat, passed by 274 votes to 160 with 2 abstentions, governs relations between the state and the Roman Catholic Church, to which about 90 percent of the population at least nominally belong.

Leftist lawmakers contended the concordat would yield too much influence to the already powerful church. The new government said the treaty posed no danger of imposing church influence on daily life.

Among other provisions, the treaty

For the Record

The police in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands arrested a German psychologist hours before they say he planned to lead followers of his religious sect in a mass suicide. Heide Fitkau-Garthe, 57, was arrested late Wednesday on charges of attempting to induce suicide, an Interior Ministry representative said. The authorities said 30 members of the sect planned to kill themselves sometime before 8 P.M. Thursday, when they believed the end of the world would come and a space ship would pick up their bodies. (AP)

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Iran and America

Americans accustomed to Iranian clerics fulminating against the United States may have been pleasantly surprised to encounter Mohammed Khatami on CNN Wednesday evening. The new president spoke admiringly of American civilization, sprinkling his comments with respectful references to the Pilgrims and Abraham Lincoln. He called for cultural and education exchanges between Iran and America. But for all the friendly gestures, the hard edge of Iran's hostility to America was still present. By the end of Mr. Khatami's interview, with Christiane Amanpour, it was clear that there would be no quick healing of the rift between Tehran and Washington.

Changing the tone of Iranian rhetoric about the United States is itself an achievement, and Mr. Khatami may have gone as far as he could for now, given the resistance of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to better relations with Washington. Mr. Khatami in the interview was the first Iranian leader since the 1979 revolution to offer even a hint of remorse over the seizure of American hostages then. But he badly miscalculated in thinking that

the American people do not share their government's grave misgivings about Iranian policies and behavior.

Mr. Khatami's attack on the American government as the cause of poverty and oppression around the world was crude and rigidly ideological. His complaints about American policy toward Iran were simplistic, although not entirely without merit on the question of Washington's blind support for the corrupt regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. His remarks seemed to leave little room for a dialogue with the Clinton administration about such matters as Iranian support for terrorism, opposition to the Middle East peace effort and efforts to develop nuclear weapons. His characterization of the Israeli government as a "racist, terrorist regime" was offensive.

The years of enmity between Washington and Tehran should end. The hostility no longer serves the interest of either nation. But it cannot be eliminated, or even productively addressed, if Mr. Khatami will not countenance direct discussions with the American government.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Nichols Sentence

How do you sentence a man convicted of conspiring to commit the worst act of domestic terrorism in American history yet acquitted of the act itself, convicted of manslaughter in the deaths that it caused but acquitted of murder for those same deaths? It is no great surprise that the jury in the trial of Terry L. Nichols, having rendered a verdict this internally inconsistent, has deadlocked on whether Mr. Nichols deserves death.

On one level, the death penalty is the obvious sentence; it seems outrageous, after all, to execute someone for a street murder but to let a man who plotted to blow up a building where 168 innocents would die.

On the other hand, the jury had its reasons for distinguishing Mr. Nichols's crime from that of Timothy McVeigh, who was sentenced to death, and that distinction should, perhaps, be translated into a less severe punishment.

An internally inconsistent verdict is not necessarily illegitimate. Juries do not act with a single mind. There are compromises between jurors who believe one thing and those who believe another. Verdicts represent the judgment that 12 independent processors of the same information can all live with.

In Mr. Nichols's case, some jurors thought that he played only a small role in the bombing, while others thought his part much larger. Jurors were concerned about the possible existence of the elusive John Doe No. 2 and about perceived inadequacies in the government's investigation.

Playing Dangerously

Death during recreation is nearly always accidental, and an accidental death is, by definition, a preventable death. The skiing accidents that killed Michael Kennedy and Sonny Bono would never have happened, or so it is easy to say after the fact. If Mr. Kennedy had not been playing football and Mr. Bono had stayed out of the trees.

In the aftermath, the risks seem unacceptable. But in the moments before both accidents, the risks must have seemed perfectly reasonable to both men. They did not buy lift tickets in the hopes of dying with death. Few skiers do. Nor did Anatoli Boukreev, the Russian mountaineer who died in an avalanche several weeks ago, begin his ascent of Annapurna intending to flirt with extinction.

But the chance of serious injury and death is always there, especially as the popularity of extreme sports increases. That is why nearly every true sophisticate of an inherently risky sport — anything from surfing to mountaineering — tries to offset risk with preparation. The higher the degree of conditioning, experience and mental discipline an athlete enjoys, the higher the degree of risk he can accept.

The point is not usually to pursue risk per se, but to pursue a level of physical and mental challenge that increases even as the risks attending failure increase, too. Danger intensifies concentration, but concentration is nearly always a means of diminishing danger. That is the simple equilibrium of every hazardous sport.

Other Comment

Algerian Humiliation

Among all the Arabs who suffered humiliation under the Ottoman, British and French empires, Algerians have felt the most definitively humiliated of all. But today one is more humiliated in Algeria, than ever. Precisely because there was a grand opportunity to emerge from humiliation with independence, sacrifices, oil, gas, trained elites, a rebelling people and a country wasted so many chances so radically and so quickly.

— Jean Daniel, commenting in *Le Nouvel Observateur* (Paris).

Algeria Cannot Be Left Alone With Its Horrors

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The atrocious butcheries in Algeria have reached a dramatic new scale just as public opinion in the West is turning from ignorance to apathy to outrage. There is a comparison with Bosnia in the sense that it took a year or more for people elsewhere to realize the horror and then begin demanding with increasing insistence that their governments "do something."

European governments, and to a somewhat lesser extent the U.S. government, are facing that kind of public pressure now. They recognize that they can no longer pretend not to notice. But so far they cannot think of what to do beyond express repugnance, and talk to each other about it.

There is lots of talk going on. Algeria is on the agenda of practically every European Union meeting, and Washington is checking the European capitals. Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, has proposed the dispatch of an EU special mission to look into the situation and see what might be done to help suppress the terrorism and aid the victims.

The Algerian government has not yet officially responded, but it has rejected all previous suggestions as intolerable interference.

It denies the scope of the killings despite documented reports in the Algerian media, whose journalists have shown awesome courage at the real risk of their own lives, and claims that it is getting the situation "under control."

There can be no question of sending in outside force so long as the Algerian government is recognized as legitimate and refuses any kind of intervention or mediation. In any event, what would foreign troops or advisers do? What would be their mission? There is no useful answer.

Does this mean that nothing can be done except gasp in dismay, issue statements and perhaps pass resolutions? People in Algeria feel abandoned. They can't believe that no one will help to stop such crimes against humanity, but they don't know where to appeal.

The Algerian government angrily denounced as "unacceptable" a formal French statement condemning these "acts of barbaric savagery" and noting the "legitimate right of the Algerian population to be protected."

France, which has been generally supportive of the government up to now and kept a low profile on the issue

despite its special importance to people here, did not specify who is to blame.

The role of the government and army has been murky. There are rumors that sometimes they have been responsible for crimes in order to rally the disaffected population against Islamic extremists fighting for power. There have been no proofs. But it has been widely noticed that even when there have been military installations quite nearby and the massacres go on for hours, no one has come to the defense of the victims.

It is a poignant example of the dilemma of the law of nations, the right of unquestioned sovereignty versus the duty to provide the most basic human right, the right not to be murdered.

So it is essential to find a way to put some pressure on the Algerian government. A coalition of important countries — and it must be coordinated — should tell the government that if it is unable to protect its people, they will be sympathetic to a request for help.

And if it is unwilling, they can no longer provide international support through such institutions as the World Bank and credit arrangements.

This is not sanctions, which almost surely could not be organized and would disrupt the world oil market beyond what anybody is ready to accept

as well as put the main burden of punishment on the suffering population.

Is it blackmail? Yes, and well justified, leaving it up to Algeria how much it wants to be inconvenienced and isolated. The benefits of full participation in the international community require the observation of certain minimum human standards.

It would be of great help if Islamic authorities, voices of the religious community as well as of governments, spoke loudly to denounce the murders as violations of the meaning of Islam.

Surprisingly, the Iranian government, which Algeria has held responsible for supporting the terrorists, has openly called for measures by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to "prevent such inhuman acts."

Western governments can quietly encourage friendly Arab states to join the chorus of opprobrium.

Something does have to be done. It is not easy, because the familiar tools do not work. It takes creative diplomacy to find the effective pressure points. Just to give up and weep in despair helps no one. This is what the concept of international community is supposed to be about.

Flora Lewis.

Japan: The Wait for Economic Reform May Be Long

By Tom Plate

LOS ANGELES — If 1997 was the year of China, with the historic takeover of Hong Kong, coronation of a new leader and summit with America, 1998 should prove the year of Japan, for better or for worse.

Probably for worse. It would be a timely moment indeed for long overdue changes from the world's second-largest economy, but the so-called too-big-to-fail nation doesn't look ready to make many. It could be a long year for everyone.

No one is saying it publicly, but Japan is in danger of becoming a regional menace. Its head-in-the-sand policy of seeking to escape further recession by peddling its own goods while protecting its markets and keeping its policy mind closed raises serious ethical questions about the role of this world power in Asia.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto continues to promul-

gate astonishing policies. Last spring his government virtually doubled the sales tax, further suppressing the inclination to spend. That threw other exporting Asian nations into renewed despair that Japan will ever be the consuming savior of their cheap manufacturing industries.

How much will America and Europe by themselves be able to import? Only a domestically stimulated Japanese economy with markets open to imports can reinvigorate Asia's out-of-balance regional economy.

But except for the planned "big bang" reforms designed to open domestic financial businesses to foreign investment and involvement, reform isn't in the Japanese air; denial is.

"There is absolutely no sign," writes the respected Japanese newspaper columnist Akio Ogawa in the *Asahi Even-*

ing News, "that Hashimoto, the ruling party, the bureaucracy, banks and other businesses behind them might take the strong but curative medicine."

Warns a recent report from the U.S.-Japan 21st Century Committee, co-chaired by former prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa: "The first task for Japan, which is 20 years behind the global trend toward liberalization, is to reform its economic structure and the social structure which supports it. It must achieve a scale and speed of reform that will make up for 20 years' delay."

Japan is the deluded prisoner of its own spectacular sell-offers/buy-our-own formula. Its establishment seems determined to preserve as much of its insular system as possible.

What does the world want Japan to do? "Backs to the wall,

we say, the Japanese have no choice but to free their economy, deregulate their markets, privatize everything and in general get with the program we call globalization," writes Patrick Smith in the *Washington Quarterly*.

Don't hold your breath, though, advises this author of the provocative new book "Japan: A Reinterpretation": "We seem to think we are watching a short, while in my view we are in for a very long movie."

Mr. Hashimoto's policies are not even working for Japan, much less its Asian neighbors. Last year the yen depreciated by about 12 percent, and overall the Japanese stock market declined by 21 percent.

In December, reacting to all the criticism, Mr. Hashimoto proffered a relatively piddling tax cut in an ineffectual effort to compensate for the damaging April blunder. That is not nearly

enough to stimulate the domestic spending and consumption that would soak up goods from places like Indonesia and Thailand, not to mention America.

If the economy does not improve and Mr. Hashimoto stays on, you can anticipate stormy Japanese-U.S. relations. As the U.S.-Japanese trade imbalance widens even more when Japan seeks to climb out of its recession by exporting goods made cheaper by the yen's devaluation, U.S. politicians will start bashing Japan again.

That might prompt the Japanese public to rally around Mr. Hashimoto if he predictably lashes back.

If Japan continues on its present course, it will have only itself to blame if it drags the region's economy onto a continued downward slide, thus triggering worldwide retrenchment and recession.

Los Angeles Times.

People Have Rights, but They Also Have Responsibilities

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights occurs next December.

That declaration reiterated, in the shocked aftermath of the Second World War, what earlier was affirmed in the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution, and in the French Constituent Assembly's Declaration, in 1789, of the Rights of Man and Citizen. All say that humans possess rights, which civilization must respect.

This argument rests on the notion of "natural" law, developed in the Middle Ages and reaffirmed in the 18th century Scottish and French enlightenment. The existence of natural law was held to imply the existence of rights that people possess by virtue of what they are, and because of their natural relationship to one another in society.

A right is "that which is morally just or due." This presupposes agreement about what is just and moral. An affirmation of human rights is a statement about the nature of society. In the case of the UN declaration, the statement was essentially Western in origin and philosophy.

The UN declaration has been criticized as hypocrisy, since many of the governments voting for it in 1948 neither respected nor intended to respect any claims by their citizens which limited their power. But even hypocrisy has its uses, and the universal declaration has significantly influenced events since 1948 by making the defense of human rights an issue in international relations.

Other criticisms have come from Asia, where it is said that the Western concept of human

rights is excessively individualistic and neglects community solidarity. Western commentators have replied by saying that Asian critics of these Western ideas are often equally hypocritical, serving simply to defend arbitrary government.

There is nonetheless a legitimate argument which says that the Western emphasis on individual rights can be socially destructive and neglects the claims of society and community.

By affirming an individual "right," one makes a claim on society that is dissociated from responsibility. We say: You must grant me my pursuit of happiness. However, my pursuit of happiness may prove to be at your expense. My freedom of enterprise may ruin you.

The conventional response in the West is that the rights of one

should stop when they infringe the rights of another. But this reflects a Western, adversarial conception of justice. In practice, it usually means that if you infringe my rights I'll sue you.

A group of 24 former chiefs of state or government, including former prime ministers of Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Japan, and ex-presidents or prime ministers from the United States, Canada, France, Brazil and other countries, have now published a draft Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities.

Their chairman is former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. They propose that their declaration on responsibilities be adopted by the UN General Assembly on the anniversary of the human rights declaration in December.

Their document begins by saying that "the exclusive insistence on rights can result in conflict, division and endless dispute, and the neglect of human responsibilities can lead to lawlessness and chaos."

Also, "the rule of law and the promotion of human rights depend on the readiness of men and women to act justly."

The fundamental principle affirmed is that people must be treated humanely. "What you do not wish to be done to yourself do not do to others."

The declaration states that every person "is infinitely precious and must be protected unconditionally." And that disputes should be resolved without violence. Every person

has an obligation to honesty and to truth in speech and action.

People have a responsibility "to develop their talents through diligent endeavor," it says. "They should have equal access to education and meaningful work. All property and wealth must be used responsibly in accordance with justice and for the advancement of the human race."

"Economic and political power must not be handed as an instrument of domination, but in the service of economic justice and of the social order."

The most significant aspect of this Declaration of Human Responsibilities, in today's Western intellectual climate, is its unqualified affirmation of the existence of right and wrong. "No person, no group or organization, no state, no army or police stands above good and evil; all are subject to ethical standards. Everyone has a responsibility to promote good and to avoid evil in all things."

That takes this declaration out of the realm of platitudes. It connects it to the assumption fundamental to the existence of the United Nations itself, as well as to international law and the concept of human rights, that there is indeed a "natural" law which is connected to the nature of man, and that we owe it respect.

That also makes it a controversial document. It will be important to see what happens to it at the United Nations.

International Herald Tribune.
Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Africa: Keys to the Renaissance

By F. W. de Klerk

JOHANNESBURG — Africa is falling further behind, not only behind the world as a whole but behind other developing regions as well.

From 1980 to 1992, GNP in sub-Saharan Africa declined by an average of 0.8 percent per year. One of the great challenges of the future will be to reverse this trend and to ensure that the people of our continent catch up with the rest of humanity as fast as they can.

The alternative — the continuing marginalization of Africa — is simply not an acceptable option. In a shrinking world, the problems of one region will inevitably become the problems of other regions and, ultimately, of the whole world. Diseases do not observe international boundaries. Instability in one region can lead to instability in others. Damage to the ecology in a region as large as Africa would harm global ecology.

Most important, the populations of developed societies will not permit their governments to stand idly by while hundreds of millions of people continue to live in misery and conflict.

The key may be found in the following steps.

Africa requires stable democratic governments. Ways must be found to end the cycle of conflict that continues to scourge too many countries.

Since the Egyptian revolution of 1952, there have been 78 violent or nonconstitutional changes of government in 31 African countries. Conflicts waged throughout the continent have

caused the deaths of millions and brought about wide-scale destruction and devastation.

Fortunately, prospects for the future seem brighter. Only a handful of African countries had functioning multiparty systems before 1990. From 1990 to 1995, multiparty elections were held in 28 additional states.

Africa needs the right social and economic policies. Governments are moving away from the centralized socialist systems that shackled their potential for growth. Some countries, like Botswana and Mauritius, are proving that it is possible to achieve consistently high economic growth.

This will help Africa to address another pressing challenge, high population growth. From 1990 to 2000, it is estimated, Africa's population will grow by 2.9 percent per year, compared with 1.7 percent worldwide.

Africa needs help. African countries can be forgiven for sometimes thinking that the cards are stacked against them in the game of economic globalization. They have to labor under the burden of relatively enormous foreign debts, accumulated over the years by irresponsible governments.

In 1992, sub-Saharan Africa's external debt amounted to almost 70 percent of its collective GNP, compared with only 37.6 percent for the rest of the developing world.

In addition, prices for many

of Africa's primary exports have stagnated or declined since 1980. These products include maize, cotton, cocoa, coffee, sugar, copper and bauxite.

The international community should find ways to help Africa help itself. Steps could include allowing African exports to enter international markets on the most favorable terms. Action should be taken to add value to primary exports before they leave Africa. Something should also be done to alleviate the debt burden.

Africa needs a clear and practical development plan. The international community, and particularly the former colonial powers, should help Africa to develop a plan incorporating the steps I have just mentioned. Consideration should be given to key countries in each of the main regions as development partners.

These countries — such as South Africa in the southern region — should receive special attention in order to ensure that they become dynamic locomotives for growth in their respective regions. In this way, networks of development and stability could be established throughout the continent.

By these steps, we will be able to avoid the marginalization of Africa and open the way to what South Africa's deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, has called "the African Renaissance."

Former President de Klerk contributed this comment to *Forum 2000* (Los Angeles Times Syndicate).

est woollen stockings. After shocking London and Paris, Berlin proved too much for her, and she has discarded the male attire. Miss Bury is disappointed to find so little "progress" among the women of Germany, and she says: "No matter how intelligent they are, they occupy the same relative position to man — inferiority."

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: U.S. in Cuba

MADRID — An article written by Senor Castelar on President McKinley's Message to Congress has excited much comment. He asserts that the intervention of the United States in Cuba would be a crime analogous to the partition of Poland. Such intervention would oblige the United States to equip a formidable fleet, to increase considerably their budget and to create an enormous army. They would end by alienating the whole of Latin America, which ought not to tolerate the encroachments of North America.


1923: German Women

BERLIN — Miss Jane Bury has discarded her knickerbockers. She has locked them in a closet on the fourth floor of an obscure pension and will appear hereafter in Berlin in a fur coat, Parisian hat and frock and mod-

est woollen stockings. After shocking London and Paris, Berlin proved too much for her, and she has discarded the male attire. Miss Bury is disappointed to find so little "progress" among the women of Germany, and she says: "No matter how intelligent they are, they occupy the same relative position to man — inferiority."

1948: Reds Ousted

RIO DE JANEIRO — The Chamber of Deputies approved a bill ousting all Communist legislators throughout Brazil. The Communist party was outlawed last May and Brazil broke diplomatic relations with Russia in October. The Communist leader Mauricio Grabois said: "This is the final act of treason against democracy." Police in front of the chamber suppressed Communist manifestations, arresting more than a dozen persons.



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OPINION/LETTERS

How to Pull the Blinds On Pops, Polls, Peepers

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Your right to privacy has been stripped away. You cannot walk into your bank, or apply for a job or access your personal computer without undergoing the scrutiny of strangers.

You cannot use a credit card to buy clothes to cover your body without baring your soul. Big Brother is watching as never before in America.

Encouraged by an act of Congress, Texas and California now demand thumbprints of applicants for drivers' licenses — treating all drivers as potential criminals.

In the much applauded pursuit of "deadbeat dads," the feds now demand that all employers inform the government of every new hire, thereby building a database of who is working for whom that would be the envy of the KGB.

Although it makes it easier to zip through tolls at bridges and highways, electric eyes reading license plates help snoopers everywhere follow the movements of each driver and passenger.

Hooked on easy borrowing, consumers turn to plastic for their purchases, making records and sending electronic signals to telemarketers who track them down at home.

Stimulated by this demographic zeroing-in, Internet predators monitor your browsing, detect your interests, measure your purchases and even observe your expressed ideas.

Not are Big Brothers limited to government and commerce. Your friends and neighbors, the Nosy Parkers, secretly tape regular calls you make to them and listen in to cellular calls to third parties, enhancing the video surveillance of public streets by government and of private driveways by security agencies.

Enough. Fear of crime and terrorism has caused us Americans to let down our guard against excessive intrusion into the lives of the law-abiding. The ease of minor borrowing and the transformation of shopping into recreation have addicted us to credit cards. Taken together, the fear and the ease make a map of our lives available to cops, crazies and con men alike.

(Here comes the "to be sure" graph.) Crime is real; some court-ordered taps of Mafiosi and surveillance cameras of high-violence playgrounds are justifiable. So are random drug and alcohol tests of nuclear-response teams. The Securities and Exchange Commission should monitor insider stock trades, and no sensible passenger minds the frisking for bombs at airports.

But doesn't this creeping confluence of government snooping, commercial tracking and cultural tolerance of eavesdropping threaten each individual American's personal freedom? And isn't it time to reverse that terrible trend toward national nakedness before it replaces privacy as an American value?

Here's how to snatch your identity back from the intruders:

1. Sign as little as possible. Warranty postcards are for suckers (your sales receipt is your guarantee), and sweepstakes are devices to show your gullibility to purchasers of your address.

2. Write your local legislator demanding that a Privacy Impact Statement be required before passage of any new law, and call on your local U.S. president to convene a White House Conference on Privacy, thereby demonstrating the sleeper issue's nonpartisan political clout.

3. Use mail, which is harder to intercept than e-mail. And resist mightily requests for your Social Security retirement insurance number. If you're a lawyer, take the state to court over drivers' fingerprinting.

When a telemarketer calls, shout an imprecation and hang up. Get your kids to show you how to "disable a cookie" and download free software that lets you surf the Web in anonymity.

4. Persuade a foundation to issue a quarterly "Intrusion Index," measuring with scholarly authority the degree to which your privacy is being violated by polls, polls and peepers.

Above all —

5. Pay cash. It costs less than borrowing and keeps you in control of your own records. Remember: Cash is the enemy of the intruders. Use it to buy back your freedom.

The New York Times



By RACHFIELD in News International (Berlin). CAN Syndicate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About America

Regarding "Americans and the World" (Editorial, Jan. 5):

Given the fact that Americans have their roots in other lands, it is not surprising to discover in opinion surveys that Americans expect their country to be internationally involved.

I welcome the enlightened self-interest of Americans that is revealed in the surveys discussed in the editorial. Not only are such self-interested attitudes likely to endure, but in Americans' case their self-interest — in economic well-being, control of global warming, AIDS prevention and so on — coincides with the international interest.

A. BOLAJI AKINYELE, Cambridge, England.

Regarding "Life, Not Politics, Matters in America" (Opinion, Jan. 7) by James K. Glassman:

Mr. Glassman gleefully informs us that Americans don't care about the news; that a council seat in Washington was won with a vote turnout of only 7 percent, and that Americans are not much interested in what their government is doing.

What about people's right in a democracy to information so they can choose their leaders and representatives? A government of the uninformed and indifferent will soon perish.

VICTOR N. OSCODAR, Anglet, France.

Regarding "Cinema Vérité in Europe: Rejecting U.S. Culture" (Opinion, Dec. 16) by Richard Pells:

It is likely that Mr. Pells misunderstands why his Polish students will not go see films by Steven Spielberg.

The European students of my acquaintance are not inclined to buy into the simplistic picture he paints of a Europe forced to choose between American values and a murky, frightening alternative.

The point of calling Mr. Spielberg a hack is to distinguish him from many other products of American culture (Faulkner, Coltrane, Woody Allen). Rejecting Mr. Spielberg is not rejecting American culture, and rejecting a version of capitalism that makes no room for social justice is not a retreat toward Soviet-style communism.

MARK LOVAS, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Comparing Atrocities

Regarding "Nanking's Legacy"

(Letters to the Editor, Dec. 17):

In what is perhaps a laudable attempt to declare that underneath the skin all humans are basically the same (i.e., equally brutal and racist), one of the letter writers compares the World War II ravages of the Japanese and German armies to the massacre at My Lai.

Widespread references to "gooks" notwithstanding, the revelation that several hundred Vietnamese villagers had been killed in one day by U.S. soldiers immediately brought about an uproar in American society.

In comparison, the few attempts in the past 60 years to simply present the Japanese nation with a straightforward account of its army's atrocities in the slaughter of 300,000 civilians at Nanking have been met with wholesale resistance.

Another writer suggests that because they produced roughly the same number of dead, the rape of Nanking was no less brutal than the atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The writer overlooks a fundamental difference: The atom bombs did not appear out of the blue but after years of grueling fighting and atrocities committed by Japan's army.

ERIK SVANE, Paris.

Gorbachev Pizza Hut Ad: Unappetizing and Cruel

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — Back in 1959, Terry Southern published a darkly comic novel called "The Magic Christian," one of whose premises was that people will do anything for money.

I recall one scene in which the protagonist, Guy Grand, uses a \$500 bill to induce a hot dog

vendor to run alongside a train as it pulls out of a station. Here was a man acting like a greyhound chasing the mechanical rabbit at a dog track.

MEANWHILE

Pardon me, but that image — a bunch of money being used to make a fool of someone — is precisely what came to mind when, the other night, I happened on the new Pizza Hut TV commercial starring Mikhail Gorbachev. I felt sorry for Gorbachev and angry at Pizza Hut. One looked like a fool but the other looked cruel.

The commercial goes something like this: Mr. Gorbachev comes to the (actual) Moscow Pizza Hut with his little (actual) granddaughter and takes a table. He is noticed by the other patrons.

"Because of him, we have economic confusion," an older man growls.

Not so, says another patron, a younger and much better-looking man: "Because of him, we have opportunity."

The debate culminates with an older woman raising a slice of pizza to Gorbachev and offering him the ultimate prize: "Because of him, we have things like Pizza Hut."

Something is also said about the crust, but by then I was too angry to pay much attention. Instead, I was vowing never again to enter a Pizza Hut.

Why? I mean, why be angry at Pizza Hut and not at Mr. Gorbachev? This is where "The Magic Christian" comes in. It acknowledges that most people will do almost anything for money.

In Gorbachev's case, he confessed he did the commercial for the money — a reported \$1 million — which he desperately needed to fund the research institute that bears his name. In other words, he was hard up.

But what was Pizza Hut's reason? There can be but one: It is trying to sell even more pizza. And in furtherance of that noble, his-

toric cause, it made Mr. Gorbachev an offer he could not refuse.

It also, inadvertently or not, showed that even a historic figure could be corrupted, that the man who more than any other created the post-Cold War world could, like a sports figure or Dan Quayle (Frito-Lay potato chips), be bought.

Certainly, American politicians sometimes make paid commercials. But not one of these figures, with the possible exception of former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, can be considered historical personages, figures of immense importance.

Mr. Gorbachev is precisely such a historic figure — although he has yet to get that sort of recognition in his native land. In Russia, Mr. Gorbachev is a disliked figure, a vaguely comical pedant who got rid of one system and forgot to establish another.

In America, though, Mr. Gorbachev gets some of the respect due him.

Not only did he preside over the collapse of the Soviet Union, he managed it without causing a war. His proudest moment should be when, in 1989, it seemed certain that East Germany was going to renounce communism and unite with West Germany.

Mr. Gorbachev faced indignant opposition from his military, which cited losses to Germany in World War II and asked if the dead had died for nothing. Mr. Gorbachev let East Germany go anyway. It was a dramatic moment.

This, then, is the man whom Pizza Hut has enlisted in the selling of fast food. It is recognition that to this company he is just another familiar face, a historic figure whose accomplishments get reduced to the fact that it was during his era that Pizza Hut opened in Moscow, replacing an earlier pizza parlor frequented by prostitutes and foreign correspondents. What it had in abundance it lacked in toppings.

Terry Southern died in 1995. Besides "The Magic Christian," he was probably best known as co-writer of the movie "Dr. Strangelove." He was a biting satirist who knew that money will make people grovel. That, in a nutshell, is what Mr. Gorbachev did for Pizza Hut. I, for one, lost my appetite.

The Washington Post

BOOKS

THE DEVIL'S CHIMNEY

By Anne Landsman. 292 pages. \$24. Soho.

Reviewed by Kelly Murphy Mason

THIS story has been called grotesque," Flannery O'Connor once said of her work, "but I prefer to call it literal." The narrator of Anne Landsman's first novel, "The Devil's Chimney," would defend her story along similar lines.

Certainly, the south that Connie knows is just as deep and dark as O'Connor's. But it lies in another continent — in the Outback of South Africa — and Connie is an admitted, unapologetic drunk. In her gin-soaked imagination, caveras, dogs, ostriches, neighbors and natives become jumbled in words both English and Afrikaans. Only when she is sufficiently anesthetized can Connie bear to face a semblance of the truth of her present condition.

That truth is far from pleasant. Connie and her brutish husband work for the South African Tourist Board, overseeing the dog kennel adjacent to the Caves, an elaborate, subterranean village that draws Afrikaner families to its depths. Connie and Jack are childless, though theirs was a shotgun wedding. The baby was stillborn, most likely due to fetal alcohol exposure; Jack will only tell Connie that he buried it in the backyard, beside two dead dogs.

The surviving dogs are Connie's greatest comfort, apart from the drink: "The dogs love me no matter what," Connie says. "That's what I say to Jack when he goes on about my drinking. As if he should talk. I'd like to see him try to sit down at the table without the brandy bottle next to him. And everybody else here. They all like a drop, especially in the evenings. You never know what goes on inside people's houses."

Unfortunately, the neighbors know all too well what goes on in Connie's

house, because in their stupors she and her husband have lost all sense of decorum. Yet Connie is as embarrassed for the Afrikaners as they are for her. She views them as a prudent, censorious lot, and her case against them is fairly credible.

So it seems inevitable that Connie would fixate on a foreign figure from the past: Miss Beatrice, the long-dead wife of an English lord. While the couple are footnotes in the sad history of the Outback, Connie is able — from a few threadbare mementos in a local museum — to spin a fantastic yarn running parallel to her own life.

Like Connie, Miss Beatrice inhabits a loveless and violent marriage. She and Mr. Henry live on a sizable and isolated ostrich farm that her family purchased after his gambling debts drove the two from England. Mr. Henry does not find his fortune in South Africa, but Miss Beatrice tries to make a go of the place herself.

Her neighbor and erstwhile lover, Mr. Jacobs, schools her in the trade, but profit motive alone cannot explain her devotion to these birds. She begins to believe the native mythology explaining how ostriches became fierce and vulnerable in equal measure, why it is they can fight but not fly.

This sense of entrapment pervades "The Devil's Chimney," which takes its title from the tag of a dead-end formation in the Caves.

Posing the central question of Landsman's novel, Connie asks, "How do you go on when bad turns to terrible?" At the bottom of her cups, Connie becomes a barroom Scheherazade, telling the thinly veiled story of Miss Beatrice to anyone who will listen (and even to her deaf sister Gerta, who obviously cannot). Through her story, Connie tries to confront demons that are personal as well as collective: the ongoing terror of domestic violence, the human costs of colonization, and the dim prospect of survival.

"Here there is always something to poison, or shoot, or chase," Connie says. "Sometimes I hear screaming in the night and I don't know where it's coming from, whether it's animal or human, European or non-European."

Occasionally, the screams are caused by her delirium tremens. Connie's inability to draw fundamental distinctions between real and imagined horrors makes her narrative as bleak and relentless as any late-night drunquelogue. Because Connie cannot communicate the scope of the suffering inflicted on the natives — or even on September and Nhosa, the retainers she imagines for Miss Beatrice — she relates the plight of the ostriches in strangely sobering detail.

Any postcolonial dolt (and I count myself as one) can immediately decode the metaphor of ostriches being plucked to death. It is considerably more challenging to decipher the significance of either Connie's or Miss Beatrice's individual experiences.

A SOUTH AFRICAN expatriate writing in English, Landsman provides her readers with a glossary of Afrikaans and Xhosa terms, but the one that needs no translation — apartheid — never appears in this novel. Presumably, Landsman means to suggest the endless, often nameless varieties of victimization in a place where systematic cruelties no longer bear mention. She succeeds.

But the indiscriminate surrealism of "The Devil's Chimney" has a numbing effect on the reader, who may find Connie's conflation of the grotesque and literal too heady a brew, the sort that spawns a hangover indistinguishable from lasting despair.

Kelly Murphy Mason teaches in the English Department at George Washington University and is working on a collection of stories. She wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

INDIVIDUAL competitions are so unpopular that they are hardly ever scheduled in tournaments. It is another matter, however, when money is at stake. The first Omar Sharif Individual was a considerable success in 1990, and the second is already sure to do at least as well. It will be played Feb. 22-27 at the Hilton Grand Hotel in Atlantic City, and Dr. Zhivago himself will be among the participants coming from far and wide. There will be a prize fund of \$200,000, of which \$40,000 will go to the winner.

An individual has two advantages. There is no sponsorship of partners or teams

by wealthy players, and there are no complicated systems in use. It appeals to many experts who usually stay away from tournaments, preferring money games in clubs.

A recent such game at the Regency Club in Manhattan included three players who are involved in the Sharif Individual. Sitting North and South were Jeff Westheimer and Boris Koytchou, who played on the first occasion and are likely to play again, and West was Tannah Hirsch, the organizer of the tournament.

A brisk auction led to six hearts, with first sight might seem inferior to six spades with South as declarer. It is true that in spades South can avoid the club finesse, but

he needs a 3-2 spade split and might be hurt by an immediate heart ruff.

But six hearts is very slightly better because, as the actual play showed, South may be able to avoid the club finesse. Koytchou, who in his youth represented both France and the United States internationally, won the opening spade lead with the king and ruffed a diamond. He then drew trumps ending in dummy, threw a spade on the diamond ace and ruffed a diamond.

When he then led to the spade ace and conceded a spade to West, that player was endplayed.

As it happened, he had to lead a club into the ace-queen, but if he had still held a

diamond, playing that suit would have conceded a ruff and stuff.

NORTH (D)			
AK42			
AQ72			
A84			
83			
EAST			
Q3			
Q4			
KQ109853			
764			
SOUTH			
1073			
KJ10855			
0			
AQ10			
The bidding			
North	East	South	West
10	Pass	10	Pass
20	Pass	40	Pass
60	Pass	Pass	Pass
West led the spade six.			

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Livio D. DeSimone, CEO of 3M and Frank Popoff, chairman of Dow Chemical Company, with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

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DINING

A Bistro That Is A Bargain Warm Comfort In Cold Weather

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Paris diners owe a fine debt of gratitude to chef Jean-Pierre Vigato. Not only has he wooed us for years with his steady, personalized form of modern cooking at his Michelin two-star restaurant Apicieu, but he has influenced a good number of fine, young chefs.

The newest is Francis Leveque, who for the past few months has been playing to a packed dining room at the small bistro-style restaurant Dame Jeanne, not far from the Bastille. Here, in a colorful, southern-inspired decor of bold ochers and sunburst reds, scarlet linen napkins and pristine white china, he offers a model form of updated bistro fare at rock-bottom prices.

There's a deluge of "bargain" restaurants in Paris today. But weeding out those worth trying once from those worth adding to your permanent address book is another matter.

Dame Jeanne's current menu offers some soothing, cold-weather favorites, such as falling-off-the-bone braised lamb shanks, known as *soufflé d'agneau* or *haute de gigot*. Or, try the well-seasoned, original *poitrine de veau*, veal breast that had been stuffed with herbs, rolled and roasted to perfection. Served in thick slices and bathed in an even-tempered sauce, the steaming veal was surrounded by a pool of fine mashed potatoes.

For starters, there's a pretty as well as delicious terrine of tender beef cheeks (they sound better in French, as *joues de boeuf*) and verdant leeks. The terrine is cut in a thick slice, drizzled with a properly vinegary dressing, and served with a small, refreshing salad of *mesculin*, fresh tuined greens. Leveque's starter *risotto* — this one flavored with assorted wild mushrooms — was distinctly French and thoroughly delicious. Rather than the creamy, unified *dente* mass of the Italian version, this *risotto* was thinner, flavored with plenty of cooking juices, and no less appealing.

JUST A SLIGHT DOWNSIDE

Alas, service in the two small dining rooms is typical of the laid-back Bastille neighborhood. No one there ever seems to be in a hurry. Even wine doesn't come until your first course is on the table. And since Leveque is alone in the kitchen, the wait can seem interminable.

When the wine does arrive, it can be delicious. By all means sample the bargain-priced 120-franc (\$20) bottle of 1995 Beaujolais Julienas Cotes du Beaujolais, from the winemaker Paul Spay, Domaine de la Cave Lamartine. To my palate, it is an ideal rendering of a fine Beaujolais: not overly fruity, but fun and vigorous, and just serious enough to inhibit you from dancing out the door.

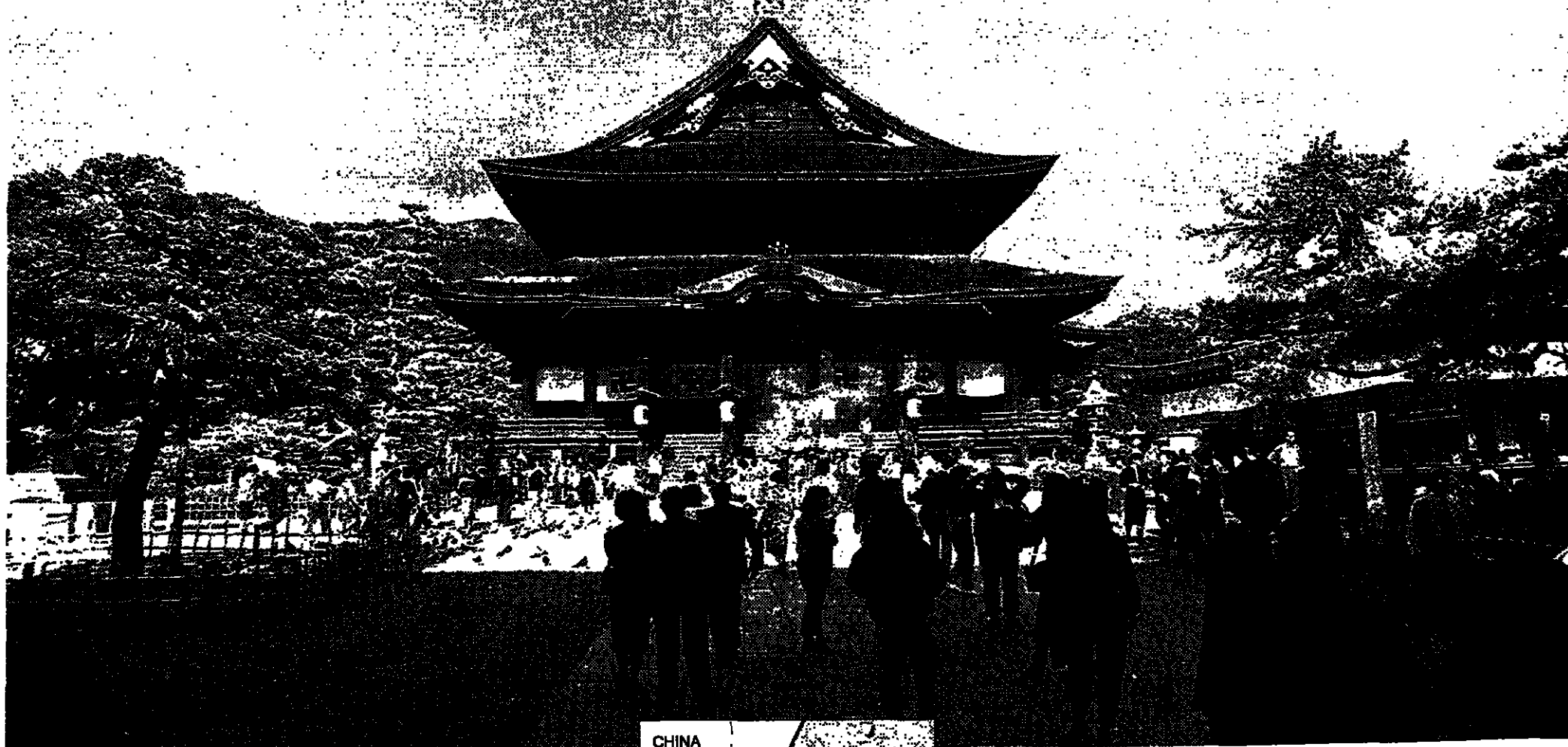
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David Susskind

Nagano: Go for the Games or Just for Luck

Amid the Sports and Spas, a Temple With a Mysterious, Unseen Buddha



Zenkoji Temple houses a Buddha that has not been seen for 305 years.

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — When athletes and spectators pour, as they soon will, into the city of Nagano, the host of the Olympic Winter Games, they will encounter snowy mountain ranges, a live volcano and the chance to experience death and rebirth — symbolically — in one of Japan's greatest Buddhist temples. The temple is supposed to bring a lifetime of good luck, and its underground vault is the only cultural site in Japan that my children count as a rival in significance to Tokyo Disneyland.

Visitors to Nagano will see all this and more, but none of them, not even the Japanese Emperor himself, will be allowed a glimpse of Nagano's greatest prize. That is a gilded bronze statue of Buddha with two attendants, said to have arrived in Japan in 552 from Korea as part of the first mission to carry Buddhism to Japan. It is therefore one of the oldest Buddhist statues in Japan, and, according to legend, is invested with miraculous powers — one of which is to blind anyone who lays eyes on it. That explains why it has been kept hidden away, presumably unseen for the last 305 years.

A MYSTICAL PLACE The temple where the statue is housed, Zenkoji, attracts pilgrims from all over Japan. One of the country's great tourist sites it underscores Nagano's role as a special kind of Olympic city: not just a ski resort, but also an ancient and mystical spot with attractions that go far beyond the Olympic competition.

Still, when the Games open on Feb. 7, they will put Nagano on the global map. More important, the Japanese government has invested — probably foolishly, given the staggering cost — in a new bullet train that has made the area far more accessible. Particularly for visitors on the main Tokyo-to-Kyoto circuit, Nagano offers a refreshing detour into the heart of the country and a glimpse into the nation's soul. The Olympics will perhaps not be the best time to explore the city, for it will be crowded and traffic will be a snarl, but Nagano will be there before and after the Games — and as a result of the preparations, there are more English signs than ever. Americans will find it easier to make their way into the right dressing room for the public baths.

Nagano Prefecture is a sprawling, mountainous region, with about 2.1 million inhabitants. Famed for its apples, delicious and crunchy and sometimes the size of soccer balls, Nagano is a playground of ski resorts and hot springs. When friends were visiting in November, my wife and I took them and our herd of children — three of ours, two of theirs — on a day trip to Nagano, for it offers a flavor of traditional Japan in a kid-friendly package. We began our visit in the prefectural capital, also named Nagano, a city of 360,000 with its share of glass-and-steel office towers. Yet somehow Nagano City manages to preserve the aura of a country town, perhaps because of the mountains that surround and humble it, or perhaps because of the refreshing chill in the air when one steps off the train from Tokyo.

After emerging from the train station, it is a one-mile walk to Zenkoji, the temple that is home to the miraculous statue. The avenue is lined with shops offering Nagano apples and other souvenirs, and it bustles with pilgrims from all over Japan, for legend has it that a visit to Zenkoji will bring salvation.

Zenkoji is said to have been built in the seventh century, but it has burned down many times. The current structure, a massive hall that is one of the biggest wooden buildings in Japan, dates from 1707. Dark brown and edged with gold, it looms over the neighborhood and is approached through two huge gates that lend a solemnity to the entire area.

Yet inside the gates, the atmosphere

is a bit like a carnival. Thousands of pigeons bustle about, and a grandmother tries to show a suspicious toddler how to feed the birds. He looks horrified as the pigeons whirl around him, and when one lands on his shoulder he begins to wail. Other visitors surround a huge cauldron from which smoke billows, waving the smoke into their faces. The smoke is supposed to be good luck, so the kids in our group frantically waved some into their faces. I tried to accept this secondary smoke as spiritual.

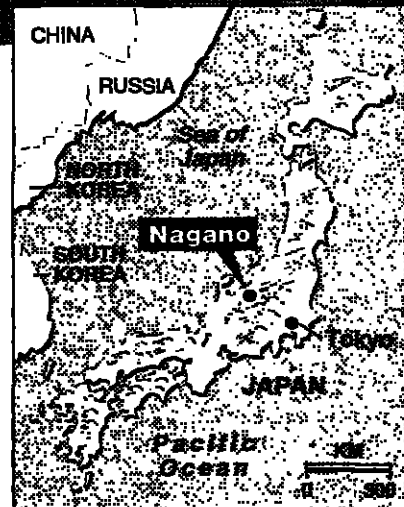
The interior of Zenkoji is dim and crowded, and it takes a moment to adjust to the darkness. Obinzuru-san, a life-size gold-painted wooden statue of a disciple of Buddha, sits in a lotus position near the entrance, and a stream of visitors reaches out to touch his hand, ear or face for good luck. Indeed, such groping has gradually worn away poor Obinzuru-san's face, but still he presides over the multitude with as much dignity as a faceless sculpture can muster.

The real adventure begins in the back of the main hall. It involves going downstairs into the basement, and stumbling along a pitch-black pathway while trying to touch a "key of paradise" that is hidden in the wall and is said to bring salvation to those who touch it. The pathway is not just dark, it is absolutely black — I literally could not see my hand an inch in front of my eyes — so we held on to one another as the children advised us loudly and nervously that they weren't the least bit scared. We reassured Gregory, 5, and Geoffrey, 3, that if they just kept going a bit farther, they would reach the "key of paradise," and win a lifetime of good luck. I gave them the crucial hint that the key is on the right-hand side, about waist-high. With that they easily found it, shrieked exultantly, and rubbed vigorously.

A temple official explained that the "key of paradise" is directly below the famous statue that has been hidden for the last three centuries. The darkness represents your death, allowing you to be reborn as a new person.

READY for an earthly meal upon emerging, we found the area around Zenkoji teeming with restaurants featuring one of Nagano's best-known specialties, *soba* noodles. *Soba*, made of buckwheat, is one of my favorite Japanese foods; it is also among the cheapest. A basic *soba* (cold noodles dipped in sauce) is refreshing and costs only about \$5; *tororo soba* (hot or cold noodles served in broth and accompanied by a thick sauce of grated yam) is just a dollar or two more.

The place to stay in Nagano is not a Western hotel but a Japanese inn, ideally one of those clustered around hot springs in the less populated parts of the prefecture. One of the most famous springs is Jigokudani, or Hell Valley. Another is Seni Onsen, where the spring is inside a natural cave. I have been planning for a couple of years to go to Seni Onsen, but



whenever I have had time the inn has been full. Most recently, I was told it was booked for about the next seven months — at a rate of \$750 a night for my family of five in one room.

Apart from Zenkoji, the most interesting site in the prefecture also is underground, but it conjures up grim memories for Japanese and so does not get the attention it should. It is the Matsushiro Headquarters network of tunnels that the Imperial Army built in the waning months of World War II as a refuge for the emperor, the army and the government. The plan was to move the country's leaders to a safe haven underneath a mountain, where the government could continue to operate.

BIG ENOUGH TO DRIVE IN

The tunnels are big enough to drive a car through, and they extend for around seven miles through hard rock. But nuclear weapons would have infected even these tunnels with deadly radioactivity, and the blasting finally stopped on Aug. 15, 1945, the day of Japan's surrender. The caves were 75 percent complete.

We entered through an old air shaft, descending a set of stairs carved in the rock, where a series of electric lights provides adequate but eerie illumination. Most of the tunnels are closed to visitors, but even so we could hike for the better part of a mile down a series of shafts.

The Imperial Army forced thousands of Korean laborers and nearby Japanese residents to build the tunnels, and 300 to 1,000 people died in the process. Most of the dead were Koreans who died in cave-ins or explosions or else succumbed to malnutrition, disease or suicide. Others were shot for trying to escape or for protesting the brutal around-the-clock working conditions.

In a self-lacerating plaque at the entrance, the local authorities have written: "The historical remains of the Matsushiro Headquarters call attention to the Japanese invasion of other Asian countries, as seen in World War II and the colonization of Korea. The remains forever remind us of the sins we committed during the war period."



Museum at the Imperial Army's World War II tunnels at Matsushiro.

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Getting around Nagano, Japan, using anything other than feet these days takes about twice as much time as normal — at least. To be sure, congestion is nothing new to Nagano, the funnel through which most weekend skiers pass on their way to the Japan Alps, the breathtakingly beautiful mountains that will be home to the 1998 Olympic Winter Games Feb. 7-22.

But the current congestion, caused by lumbering tractors and tottering cranes, is a sign that — unlike Atlanta — Nagano and the five outlying villages where the events will take place will be prepared for the thousands of athletes, coaches and Olympic officials and more than a million spectators. This, after all, is Japan, where repairmen schedule — and keep — appointments at specific times, not in half-day increments.

At least half the reason this city of 360,000 wanted the Olympic Games was the public spending that comes with them, and it has not been disappointed. Nagano kicked in about \$1 billion, and the Japanese government has spent about \$13 billion in public works projects, including new Shinkansen (bullet train) service that sharply reduces the time for the trip from Tokyo. The ride takes from 79 minutes to two hours between Tokyo and Nagano, depending on the number of stops on the way. There will be 24 round trips daily during the Games, with each train carrying 600 passengers. Reserved round-trip tickets are \$130; a one-week rail pass good for unlimited travel is \$231.

The old station, a wooden copy of Zenkoji, a temple that is Nagano's most famous site, was torn down; its replacement, a somewhat sterile structure, could just as easily seem at home in Vail or Snowmass. But much has been done to preserve Nagano's natural treasures. Organizers transplanted a plot of special grasses favored by the finicky and endangered Gifu butterfly to make way for a ski run near Hakuba, the town that will be host to the downhill and cross-country events, and local children planted acorns of trees that were sacrificed for the Olympics. Even the Olympic Stadium was built with an eye toward recycling: When the Games are but a distant memory, Nagano hopes the stadium will be home to a new baseball team.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Away from the ski trails and skating rinks, visitors will find numerous cultural events. The Tanaka Honke Museum, the home of a wealthy family during the 18th century, will have an exhibit of Hina dolls from Feb. 4 through April. Hina dolls, which represent the emperor and empress and their attendants attired in traditional finery, usually about 8 inches tall, are taken out each year during a festival for girls in March. The museum offers one of the best glimpses of the opulence enjoyed by Japan's merchant elite, many of whom founded the multinational corporations of today. Tel: 248-8008; closed Tuesday, \$5. (The country and city codes for Nagano are 81-26.) At Nagano Station, catch the Nagano Dentetsu for Suzuka Station; from there, it is five minutes by cab.

During the Games, the Nagano Prefectural Cultural Center, 284 Wakasato, Ohaza, 226-0008, will showcase Japanese drama and music. At noon on Feb. 8, about 1,000 students of the Suzuki method will give a free concert. Kodo, a troupe of children who play traditional Japanese drums, will perform at the cultural center on Feb. 10 at 6:30 P.M. Tickets, \$33 to \$41, available through Ticket Pia on the ground floor of the Nagano Station.

On Feb. 12 at 6 P.M., the center will offer two traditional kyogen plays, or short comic dramas, as well as a kyogen take on "Hamlet." Tickets (\$33) are available at the cultural center the day of

the show or in advance at 227-0011 or 227-3000.

An unusual version of kabuki will be staged at the Kitano Bungeiza, a local theater, at 1625 Nishigo-cho, 233-3111, from 2 to 4 P.M. on Feb. 14. Actors and musicians from Oshika, south of Nagano, will present a play performed in their hometown for the last 300 years. But unlike regular kabuki, in which all the parts are played by men, Oshika's kabuki includes women. The show is free, with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. It will be followed from 6 to 7 P.M. by a *ningyo joruri*, a traditional puppet show, from Iida, a city in Nagano prefecture.

The centerpiece of the Winter Games is the Olympic Stadium, in Nagano. The walls of the third floor of the stadium, designed by a team of architects at Rui Sekkei-Shitsu, an Osaka firm, represent the petals and calyx of a *sakura*, or cherry blossom, Japan's national flower.

According to Yuichi Saito, the lead architect, when his team visited Nagano, they were impressed by the power of the surrounding mountains. In ancient Japan, the mountain god was called Sa no Kami, and his seat was called Sa Kura, which offered the architects a convenient theme for the stadium that both reflected Japan as a whole and Nagano specifically.

About 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Nagano is Hakuba, where alpine and cross-country skiing events will be held and the best known of Japan's "cluster" ski areas. The name refers to both the town and the 9,619-foot (2,930-meter) mountain it sits on. According to lore, a group of farmers many years ago decided that a patch of snow that always survives the summer resembled a white horse, or *hakuba*.

KARUIZAWA, a summer curling will be held, is a summer curling for the movers and shakers who run Japan Inc. It can be reached by Shinkansen from Tokyo on the same route that goes to Nagano, although not all trains stop there. The town lies at the foot of Mount Asama, one of many active volcanoes in Japan (it hasn't erupted since 1783). About an hour's bus ride from town one can walk in the lava fields.

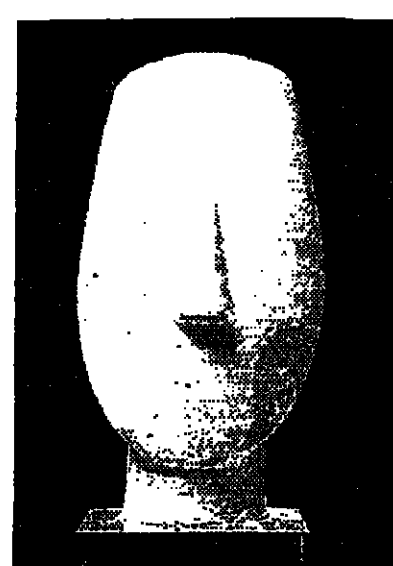
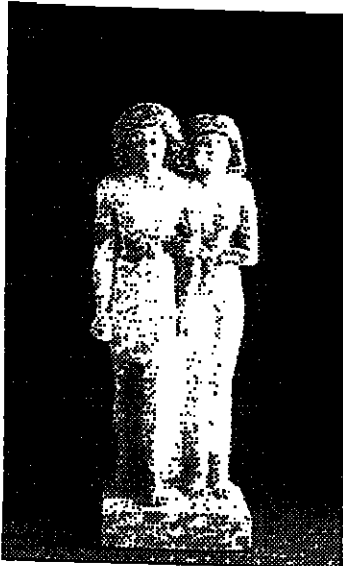
Olympic spectators who need to warm their bones can get a free sample of sake just outside of Zenkoji's west gate at Yoshinoya, where one can witness the sake-making process as well. Yoshinoya, 237-5000, is near the Zenkoji-shita Station, the third stop from Nagano Station on the Nagano Dentetsu.

If you haven't booked for the Games, your chances of getting a Western-style room in one of the cookie-cutter hotels that have sprung up are slim to none. Around Nagano, Japanese-style inns, called ryokans, are still reporting vacancies; if you don't mind sharing a steaming hot bath and sleeping on a futon, many of them give a view of Japan that's missed in a conventional hotel. In Hakuba, owners of inns have complained that bookings are actually lower than in the past because people think they have no chance of getting a room. The Hakuba ryokan association can be reached at (81-261) 72-2279.

HOT SPRINGS Nature has provided the time-honored complement to a day of skiing: the hot tub. Hot springs (*onsen*) dot the area, testament to the volcanic activity stewing far below. The Ryokan Sakaya at Nozawa Onsen, one of Japan's most famous onsens, has a *rotenburo*, a bath exposed to the sky. Rooms at Sakaya, (0269) 85-3118, range from \$147.50 to \$205 a person, which includes two meals, plus 8 percent tax and a \$1.25 onsen tax.

The Kiriya Ryokan, (0269) 85-2020, is built around a pretty Japanese garden. Rooms: \$123 to \$205 a person, including two meals, plus taxes. Nozawa Onsen is about an hour from Nagano Station on the JR Iiyama line to Togari Nozawa Onsen Station.

LEISURE



Treasures displayed in the Louvre include a double Egyptian statue, "Lot and His Daughters" by Guercino, a bust of a woman from about 2,500 B.C., a Fayum "mummy portrait," and a Madonna and saints by Anselmi.

Grand Louvre Gets Grandeur With New Egyptian Galleries

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — The inauguration of L.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre Museum in 1989 was such a watershed that it marked only the first stage of a \$1.2 billion project to modernize the great palace of art. Still ahead lay a task that was less visually spectacular than the pyramid, but no less important to the Louvre — refurbishing and expanding its galleries and reorganizing its immense collection. Now, more than eight years later (and 17 years after President Francois Mitterrand set in motion the transformation of the Louvre), the end is within sight.

In 1993, the Louvre absorbed the northern Richelieu Wing, home to the Finance Ministry since 1820, and gained 230,000 square feet (about 21,300 square meters) of space, including three covered (but naturally lighted) courtyards for large statuary. Also in 1993 came in-

auguration of the glitzy Carrousel du Louvre shopping mall, which leads to the museum's main reception area below the pyramid and is designed around another glass pyramid, this one inverted. In 1997, the Grand Louvre project took several fresh strides toward completion, with installation of the Museum of Fashion and Textiles and the Museum of Decorative Arts, renovation of some galleries for Italian paintings and Roman antiquities and the opening of the Sully Wing — financed by the American philanthropists Mortimer and Theresa Sackler — for Oriental antiquities. Finally, on Dec. 21, President Jacques Chirac inaugurated a further 107,000 square feet of restored and renovated gallery space, most of it in the eastern Sully Wing.

It was this last expansion, though, that has generated special excitement because, among other things, it involved a new presentation of the Louvre's vast collection of Egyptian antiquities. Ever since Napoleon's occupation of Egypt, 1798 to 1801, the French have had a

love affair with the world of the pharaohs, fueled by the remarkable stone statues, steles and tombs that now stand in the Louvre, removed from Egypt by 19th-century French archaeologists. (Imperial powers like France and Britain preferred to think they were protecting mankind's artistic heritage rather than looting.)

5,000 WORKS ON SHOW

Now with 60 percent more space for its Egyptian collection, the Louvre has increased the number of pieces on show in 30 newly restored rooms from 4,000 to 5,000 (of a total of 55,000), enabling it to boast the world's greatest display of Egyptian antiquities outside Cairo. On the first floor of the Sully Wing, the collection is presented thematically, covering everything from life along the Nile, farming and hunting, to writing, dwellings, temples and funerary rites. On the floor above, the display is chronological, from the end of prehistory

around 4000 B.C. to Cleopatra and the arrival of the Romans around 30 B.C. Here, the Louvre has opted for a theatrical mise-en-scene, using sphinxes, marble pillars and statues to re-create the mood of the great Egyptian temples.

In the southern Denon Wing of the museum, the Louvre has two series of new rooms devoted to later Egypt. One focuses on the funerary practices of Roman Egypt and includes painted shrouds, examples of the famous Fayum mummy portraits, several elaborate coffins and the mummified body of an unidentified man. In the other rooms, Coptic Egypt, which begins in the third century A.D. and continues through the Arab conquest

in the mid-seventh century, is represented by tapestries, writing and iconographic imagery. And, most dramatically, the monastery church at Baouit, Egypt, has been reconstructed in the Louvre.

The new areas opened to the public also include freshly restored and newly occupied rooms for Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities. The pre-Hellenic gallery, now beautifully installed in Napoleon III's former stables, displays 300 works, one-third of them never shown to the public before, and covers the period from Cycladic art starting in 3,000 B.C. to Archaic art in the sixth century B.C. The Campana collection of Greek vases now has more space, plus new lighting and air-conditioning, in the Sully Wing.

And Roman precious metalwork benefits from a new display.

Finally, the Grande Galerie, the stunning 600-foot hall that borders the Seine, was reopened last month, dedicated largely to 15th-, 16th- and 17th-century Italian painting, including works by Fra Angelico, Piero della Francesca, Raphael, Leonardo and Caravaggio. Still pending are restoration of 50,000 square feet of galleries, reconstruction of a walkway — the Passerelle Solferino — over the Seine from the Tuileries Gardens to the Musee d'Orsay and installation of a Louvre annex to a new Museum of Mankind, Arts and Civilizations that Chirac dreams of opening in the old Museum of Man at the Trocadero.

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA
Kunsthistorisches Museum, tel: (1) 5525-24403, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To April 14: "Bruegel: Tradition und Fortschritt." Paintings by Peter Bruegel the Elder as well as paintings and works on paper by his two sons, Jan the Elder and Peter the Younger.

BRITAIN

EDINBURGH
National Gallery of Scotland, tel: (131) 332-2256, open daily. To Jan. 31: "Turner Watercolours." For more than 90 years, these 38 watercolors by the British painter have been displayed during the month of January exclusively, at the request of the donor.

LONDON
Victoria & Albert Museum, tel: (171) 938-8441, open daily. Continuing/ To March 29: "Colours of the Indus: Costumes and Textiles of Pakistan."

FRANCE

PARIS
Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing/ To Jan. 26: "Georges de La Tour, 1593-1652." Musée d'Orsay, tel: 01-40-49-48-14, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 2: "Wilhelm Hammarsholm." A selection of paintings by the Danish artist (1864-1916). Musée Marmottan, tel: 01-42-24-27-02, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 28: "Berthe Morisot." Works by the French Impressionist artist. Petit Palais, tel: 01-42-65-12-73, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 15: "Marianne et Germania, 1789-1889: Un Siècle de Passions Franco-Allemandes." Paintings, drawings, sculptures, and musical and literary items document the history of Franco-German relations.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT
Schirn Kunsthalle, tel: (69) 298-882-0, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 1: "Between Heaven and Earth." Icons and illuminated manuscripts dating from the 14th to the 18th centuries on loan from state museums in Moscow.

MUNICH
Deichtorhallen, tel: (40) 32-10-30, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 1: "Francis Picabia: Das Spätwerk, 1933-1953." Late paintings and drawings by the French artist (1879-1953).

HONG KONG

HONG KONG MUSEUM, tel: 2734-2167, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 1: "National Treasures: Gems of China's Cultural Relics." Bronze, jade, ivory, silver and gold objects, as well as lacquerware and stone carving dating back to the Neolithic era.

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM
Israel Museum, tel: (2) 6708-811, open daily. Continuing/ To Jan. 31: "Propaganda and Vision: Soviet and Israeli Art, 1930-1955." Works created under Stalin are contrasted with Israeli works of the same period.

ITALY

ROME
Capitoline Museum, tel: (6) 5710-2071, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Jan. 20: "Henri Matisse: La Révélation m'st Venue de l'Orient." Documents the influence of Oriental art in Matisse's work.

LUXEMBOURG

CASINO LUXEMBOURG, tel: 22-50-45, closed Tuesdays. Continuing/ To Feb. 1: "Affinités Elctives: La Peinture Européenne en Dialogue." Brings together works by 50 European artists.

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM
Rijksmuseum, tel: (20) 673-2121, open daily. Continuing/ To March

3: "On Country Roads and Fields." A tribute to landscape paintings by 18th- and 19th-century Dutch artists.

THE HAGUE
Mauritshuis, tel: (70) 302-34-35, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 29: "Princely Patrons: The Collection of Frederick Hendrik of Orange and Amalia van Solms in The Hague." Works by Rembrandt, Rubens and Van Dyck.

PORTUGAL

LISBON
Centro Cultural de Belem, tel: (1) 302-9606, open daily. Continuing/ To Feb. 12: "Modern Art in Portugal, 1910-1940." A juxtaposition of works by Portuguese artists and documents relating to Fernando Pessoa.

SWITZERLAND

ZURICH
Kunsthaus, tel: (1) 251-6765, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Jan. 18: "Arnold Böcklin, Giorgio De Chirico, Max Ernst: Eine Reise ins Ungewisse." More than 200 works cover 120 years of painting from Romanticism and Symbolism to Surrealism.

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK
Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 570-3791, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 8: "Jackson Pollock: Sketchbooks and Drawings." Works by the American Abstract Expressionist painter (1912-1956). Pierpont Morgan Library, tel: (212) 685-0006, closed Mondays. To April 26: "A Seal Upon Thine Heart: Glyptic Art of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3500 to 2100 B.C." Approximately 100 seals carved on semiprecious stones that use pictorial symbols to communicate ideas.

WASHINGTON
National Gallery of Art, tel: (202) 737-4215, open daily. Continuing/ To March 15: "Manet and the Impressionists at Gare Saint-Lazare." How the Paris station triggered painters' creativity, including Monet and Caillebotte.

CLOSING SOON

Jan. 11: "Zulage: Spanish Treasures from the Khalil Collection." Victoria & Albert Museum, London. Jan. 11: "Cobra." Kunsthal der Hypo-Kulturstiftung, Munich. Jan. 11: "Johann Heinrich Füssli:

Das Verlorene Paradies." Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart.

Jan. 11: "Expressionismo Tedesco: Arte e Società, 1909-1923." Palazzo Grassi, Venice.

Jan. 11: "Moments of Eternity: Egyptian Art from Private Collections." Musée Rath, Geneva.

Jan. 11: "The Private Collection of

Edgar Degas." Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Jan. 11: "Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks." Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington.

Jan. 11: "Thomas Moran." National Gallery of Art, Washington.

Jan. 12: "Friedrich, 1758-1823." Grand Palais, Paris.

MOVIE GUIDE

THE BOXER

Directed by Jim Sheridan. Ireland. In his third splendid collaboration with Daniel Day-Lewis (including "My Left Foot"), Jim Sheridan returns to the politics of Northern Ireland and takes a markedly different stance about the Troubles. Though Day-Lewis plays a man dealing with imprisonment as he did in Sheridan's "In the Name of the Father," this more reflective and mature film sees a bigger picture. Day-Lewis's Danny Flynn was once a firebrand for the Irish Republican Army, but 14 years' incarceration has seasoned him. Released from prison and returning to everyday life in Belfast as the film begins, Danny fears for the impossible: a peaceful, quiet life. Sheridan's fine, galvanizing film, which teams Day-Lewis in a love story with the magical Emily Watson of "Breaking the Waves," shares that same yearning. Acknowledging the terrible toll that conflict has taken, the film wonders how to come to terms with so bloody a past. It frames the question starkly while avoiding easy answers, although the central metaphors of boxing and prison powerfully reflect a wider awareness of Belfast's plight. Each of the film's well-drawn characters is embroiled or caught in various ways. "The Boxer" reacquaints shy, lonely Danny with his long-lost sweetheart, Maggie (Watson), even as it reinvolves him in the turmoil that sent him to jail. Day-Lewis, looking wearily rugged and battling his way through several plausible boxing matches, once again breathes fire into the character of a high-minded loner, and his vitality lends real force to the film's moral arguments. Watson beautifully conveys all of Maggie's melting ambivalence about a man who has been gone 14 years. The pain on view in "The Boxer" intensifies with the effort to unite Protestants and Catholics in a nonsectarian boxing club, with unflinching hatred and suspicion of the police, with children like Maggie's son growing up in an atmosphere of time-

honored vengeance, and with the high toll that violence takes on some of the secondary characters. Yet this film, despite the grief it describes, dares to sound a note of hopefulness, too. Sheridan tells a story of bravery, love and renewal with the stirring conviction that such things are possible even in perpetually embattled places. What better holiday wish than to hope he is right? (Janet Maslin, NYT)



Emily Watson and Daniel Day-Lewis in "The Boxer."

CARRERAS SECUNDARIAS

Directed by Emilio Martinez-Lazaro. Spain. There is plenty of magic in this slice-of-life film set in 1974, a year before Franco's death. The well-crafted plot centers on a hapless yet lovable widower father (Antonio Resines) who drags his clever 15-year-old son (Fernando Ramallo) along on endless petty business capers and romances that finally pry open the truth about the father's secret history. The clue is provided by the backdrop of the Patty Hearst kidnapping saga in California, which the film's characters observe at intervals on Spanish television, along with images of their dying dictator. It is as if the father and son, and the nation itself, are looking for a way to get the

back roads (carreteras secundarias) and onto the main highways of modernity. As a period piece, the film brims with the humor of Spaniards struggling ingeniously to make ends meet. Veteran actor Resines propels the drama and romance, here displaying unusual verve, along with Maribel Verdu as his young girlfriend. In previous films she typically played little more than a shapely woman, but here she delivers some credible acting. The key trio is completed by Ramallo, a young actor who captures the frustration and optimism of the teenager aiming to make his mark. (Al Goodman, IHT)

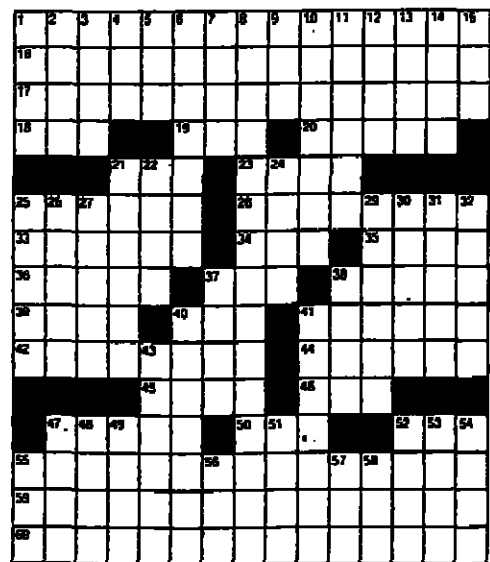
MR. MAGOO

Directed by Stanley Tong. U.S. Leslie Nielsen's fleshy recreation of the myopic cartoon is apt to make you gnash your teeth. Although Nielsen knows from bumbling — as hilariously demonstrated in "The Naked Gun" — he's too coarse and edgy to suit such a refined and warm-hearted character. Not that he gets any help from director Stanley Tong, whose filmography includes the Jackie Chan vehicles "Rumble in the Bronx," "Super-cop" and "First Strike," is, to say the least, an unlikely choice for the job of directing a blithe romp. There are some kinks to be had in these flicks, but what Tong knows about comedy wouldn't fill a whoopee cushion. Penned by "Hot Shots" writer Pat Proft and his long-time chum, Tom Sherohman, the simplistic scenario concerns the hapless hero's run-in with a ring of jewel thieves and a pair of G-men who wrongly suspect Magoo of stealing a huge ruby from a display in the city's new museum. As a rule, Magoo's exploits are barely enough to sustain a four-minute kiddie cartoon, much less a full-length feature. It also doesn't help that the movie's opening and closing credits feature the more amiable and amusing animated Magoo. If anybody is short-sighted here, it's not Magoo. It's the studio. (Rita Kempley, WP)

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Timeworn, as a joke
14 Prince, perhaps
17 Errors
18 Beast of burden
19 Resistance unit
20 Country bumpkins
21 Flood refuge
22 Bric-a-brac
24 —, tar pits
28 Yum-Yum lover in "The Mikado"
33 Big Ten team
34 Some radios
35 Concern for Claudius
36 Lodge members
37 It may be glossed over
38 — Connor of "The Terminator"
39 Drill
40 Up to, informally
41 Little one
42 Symbol of welcome
43 Took (off)
44 Roman candle
45 Amb. worker
47 Rusty on the diamond
48 Substitute for the unlisted

DOWN
1 "For goodness sake!"
2 "Star Wars" prince
3 Magnetic —
4 Roman candle
5 Penn or Union: Abbr.
6 Hawaiian island
7 Leave one's mark on
8 Brief description
9 Abode of the dead, in Norse myth
10 Many Mormons
11 "No respect" for Rodney Dangerfield
12 With 27 Down, old English character actor
13 Start of an explanation
14 Wilson and Harding, e.g.
15 The Platters' "Mine"
21 Up
22 Devil's Island escapes
23 Benoit
24 Right for the disabled
25 It's neither here nor there
26 Throw for —
27 See 12-Down
28 Going nowhere
29 Menace
30 Bo Banesque
31 Was audibly impressed
32 Portray
33 Canned product since 1937
34 New York's Bridge
35 Kind of soup, in the South
36 Wear it in good health
37 Met home
38 Mission
39 "Vusi d' from 'Tosca'
40 Prefix with type
41 were
42 Latin grammar task. Abbr.
43 To be, in old Rome
44 100 lbs.



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Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 8

JARS SACKO LAGS
ABEE PLAIN ALIA
MADAMABUTTERFLY
ACUTEUS LOADS
LABORER
GENIAL TER IOMAG
EVIL EIDER NATIA
BEST ERA IBERIA
ARTADNE DEL
BAS TUMANDOT
MARAT OHM NORMA
OPERASBYDIOGINI
BLAS VIMON APIN
OSLO STENO LSAT

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Why stay in a posh uptown hotel with attitude, when you could stay at The Mark? We're posh, (even more so with our new rooms). The difference is you can relax, let loose, be yourself here. We have everything you need to make your business life easy — a prime location, a great restaurant, computer and fax capabilities, telephone voice mail plus a new world-class wellness suite with sauna to release some stress. And because after business we want you to be as comfortable as possible, we'd like you to wear what makes you happy. A T-shirt, perhaps. In fact, we like T-shirts so much, we have one with our name on it. The Mark, Madison Ave. at 77th St., N.Y. For reservations, call 212-744-4300 or 1-800-843-6275.

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INTERNATIONAL

Khatami: 'There Must First Be a Crack in This Wall of Mistrust'

Following are excerpts of the televised interview with the Iranian president, Mohammed Khatami, from a translation and transcript supplied by CNN.

Introductory Remarks:

The American civilization is worthy of respect. When we appreciate the roots of this civilization, its significance becomes even more apparent.

The American civilization is founded upon the vision, thinking, and manners of the Puritans. Certainly, others such as adventurers, those searching for gold, and even sea pirates, also arrived in the U.S. But the American nation has never celebrated their arrival and never considered it to be the beginning of their civilization. The Puritans constituted a religious sect whose vision and characteristics, in addition to worshipping God, was in harmony with republicanism, democracy, and freedom.

Unfortunately, in the 16th, 17th, and even 18th centuries, there was a serious clash between religion and liberty. In my opinion, one of the biggest tragedies in human history is this confrontation between religion and liberty, which is to the detriment of religion, liberty, and the human beings who deserve to have both.

And as we see, even today Americans are a religious people. Therefore, the Anglo-American

approach to religion relies on the principle that religion and liberty are consistent and compatible. I believe that if humanity is looking for happiness, it should combine religious spirituality with the virtues of liberty.

In terms of the dialogue of civilizations, we intend to benefit from the achievements and experiences of all civilizations, Western and non-Western, and to hold dialogue with them. The closer the pillars and essences of these two civilizations are, the easier the dialogue would become.

With our revolution, we are experiencing a new phase of reconstruction of civilization. We feel that what we seek is what the founders of the American civilization were also pursuing four centuries ago. This is why we sense an intellectual affinity with the essence of the American civilization.

On U.S. Foreign Policy:

Unfortunately, policies pursued by American politicians outside the United States over the past half a century since World War II are incompatible with the American civilization, which is founded on democracy, freedom and human dignity.

After the collapse of communism, there has been an attempt by certain circles to portray Islam as the new enemy, and regrettably they are targeting progressive Islam rather than certain regressive interpretations of Islam.

On the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis:

The events of those days must be viewed within the context of revolutionary fervor and the pressures to which the Iranian nation was subjected, causing it to seek a way to express its anxieties and concerns. Today we are in the period of stability, and

'We sense an intellectual affinity with the essence of the American civilization.'

fully adhere to all norms of conduct regulating relations between nations and governments.

On dialogue with the U.S. government:

The dialogue between civilizations and nations is different from political relations. In regard to political relations, we have to consider the factors that lead to the severance of relations. If some day another situation is to emerge, we must definitely consider the roots and relevant factors and try to eliminate them. There must first be a crack in this wall of mistrust to prepare for a change.

On Iran's alleged support of terrorism:

We believe in the holy Koran that says: slaying of one innocent person is tantamount to the slaying of all humanity. How could such a religion, and those who claim to be its followers, get involved in the assassination of innocent individuals and the slaughter of innocent human beings. We categorically reject all these allegations.

On Israel: I regret to say that the improper American policy of unbridled support for the aggressions of a racist terrorist regime does not serve U.S. interests, nor does it even serve that of the Jewish people. The Israeli intransigence in the course of the current peace process and its failure to honor its own undertakings has enraged even U.S. allies in the region. In my view, peace can come to the Middle East when all Palestinians, Jews and Muslims alike, can determine the future of the land. Meanwhile, we believe the United States should not risk the substantial prestige and credibility of the American people on supporting a racist regime that does not even have the backing of the Jewish people.

On nuclear ambitions:

We are not a nuclear power and do not intend to become one. We have accepted IAEA safeguards and our facilities are routinely inspected by that agency.

Yousef Gets 240 Years for Blast at N.Y. Trade Center

Agence France-Press

NEW YORK — Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, a Pakistani convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center blast and plotting to blow up airliners, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without parole.

In sentencing Mr. Yousef to a total of 240 years behind bars, Judge Kevin Duffy of U.S. District Court said Mr. Yousef would spend the rest of his life in solitary confinement with restricted visiting rights.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Duffy said Mr. Yousef was "a follower of death and destruction."

"It was your god, your master, your only devotion," he said.

"Yes, I am a terrorist and am proud of it," Mr. Yousef said. "I support terrorism."

Saying that a publisher might be "perverse enough to buy your story," Judge Duffy also fined Mr. Yousef \$4.5 million and ordered him to pay \$250 million in damages to ensure that any gain would go to his victims.

Six people were killed and about 1,000 injured in the February 1993 World Trade Center blast.

In November, Mr. Yousef was found guilty on 11 counts in connection with the blast.

The jail sentence also covers Mr. Yousef's September 1996 conviction for plotting to blow up airliners flying between Asia and the United States.

That sentencing had been postponed to avoid influencing the jurors in the World Trade Center trial.

Mr. Yousef's co-defendant in the case, Eyad Ismail, 26, was scheduled for sentencing next Monday.

Mr. Ismail, who holds a Jordanian passport, has acknowledged being the driver of the truck used in the blast, but said he did not know it contained a bomb.

Iranian Press Mostly Praises President's Address on TV

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Most Iranian newspapers on Thursday endorsed President Mohammed Khatami's cautious offer of a dialogue with the American people, but warned that the United States had far to go before ties were restored.

The Iranian public came out more strongly in favor of building bridges with the United States — an offer Mr. Khatami made in his interview Wednesday with CNN.

Mr. Khatami is a "shrewd politician with the courage to create a logical dialogue with the outside world," Iran News, which reflects the views of the Foreign Ministry, said in an editorial.

"On the whole, Khatami proved he had nothing new to say on the issue of establishing relations with the United States," the paper said.

But it added that the United States must also make efforts to mend ties.

A hard-line Iranian newspaper, however, criticized Mr. Khatami for voicing regret in his television address to the American people over the 1979 hostage-taking at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

"That revolutionary action is today put on trial as an emotional act of an early revolutionary era," the daily Kayhan said in a commentary about Mr. Khatami's interview with CNN. "Why should our nation have to pay to please Western tastes?"

Mr. Khatami said he regretted how the incident months after the 1979 Islamic revolution in which militants stormed the embassy and kept 52 Americans hostage for 444 days, had hurt Americans' feelings. He said it was important to note that it occurred "in the heat of revolutionary fervor."

An editorial in the Tehran Times, which generally reflects the conservative clergy's views, was significant in taking a neutral tone.

The Times said it was essential that real feelings of Iranians be conveyed to the American people, who can "exert pressure on their administration to cease plots" against Iran.

The conservative daily Resalat played down Mr. Khatami's conciliatory remarks and said the president had exposed "the U.S. politicians' crimes and injustices in the past 50 years."

Tehran radio, which along with state television carried the entire interview after it was aired by CNN, stressed Mr. Khatami's critical remarks about U.S. leaders in its news bulletins.

Many Iranians praised Mr. Khatami's address, while others said he should have detailed U.S. wrongdoing against Iran.



Tatyana Suskin, in a Jerusalem court Thursday, said: "I'm not sorry."

Israeli Sentenced for Pig Poster

Anti-Muslim Drawing Gets Nationalist a 2-Year Jail Term

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court, recalling Nazi caricatures of Jews, sentenced an extreme-nationalist Jewish woman to two years in jail on Thursday for putting up posters in the West Bank depicting Islam's Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

"Everything I did was out of love for the land of Israel," said Tatyana Suskin, a 26-year-old Russian immigrant and supporter of the outlawed anti-Arab group Kach.

"I'm not sorry — what should I be sorry about," she said after the judge imposed a three-year sentence, one year of which was suspended. "My grandparents were killed by the Nazis. I think they're proud of me."

Miss Suskin's action in Hebron in June incensed the Muslim world and sparked Palestinian riots in the divided West Bank town, which is sacred to Muslim and Jews.

Last week, the Jerusalem District Court found her guilty of committing a racist act, trying to harm religious sensitivities, supporting a terrorist group, damaging public property and endangering life by stoning an Arab car.

Judge Zvi Segal said "every citizen" of Israel should be aware of the dangers of offending religious sensitivities. "We must remember those Nazi caricatures," Judge Segal said, "which were full of hatred to the point of erasing the human identity of the people they depicted."

Miss Suskin, who said before the session that she was ready to go to jail for "freedom of speech," shot back angrily: "What kind of comparisons are you making? My drawings are Nazi? The Nazis took actions, these were simply drawings — so what?"

She put up the posters on 20 storefronts on the Palestinian-ruled side of Hebron on a Friday night in June. Prosecutors accused her of throwing a stone at an Arab car the next morning.

Pigs are considered unclean by both Judaism and Islam.

The court could have sentenced Miss Suskin to a maximum prison term of more than 20 years. But in determining the sentence Judge Segal said he had taken into consideration the fact that Miss Suskin was "not completely mentally well."

been the driver of a surveillance car in the bombing. He told the FBI in early 1996 that an Iranian official had recruited him in 1995 to help track U.S. military operations in Saudi Arabia in preparation for possible terrorist attacks. But Mr. Sayegh has refused to elaborate, and the investigation has ground to a halt.

"It's very likely that we will never get to the bottom of this," a senior intelligence official said last week, saying he meant that Washington will probably never turn up the "smoking gun" evidence against the Iranians that would warrant a stiff U.S. response.

An approach favored by top Saudi officials is to persuade the new government of Iran to prove its bona fides by halting financial and material support to those who want to destabilize the kingdom.

The Middle East official said that would amount to a repudiation of the hard-line policies of the past, and send a signal to radicals throughout the region that Iran was no longer a safe haven.

In the affected area of Relizane, about

ALGERIA: West to Approach Government

Continued from Page 1

openness to scrutiny from the outside.

This week both the U.S. government and the United Nations' top human rights officials have urged the Algerian leadership to cooperate with international inquiries.

Even as it has reportedly consented to these visits, the government of President Liamine Zerroul continued to criticize calls for an independent investigation of the massacres. A dispatch in the official Algerian press agency APS said the U.S. envoy to Algeria had been summoned and reminded of Algeria's "categorical rejection" of an international commission of inquiry, "wherever it comes from and whatever its form or nature."

Since just before the beginning of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on Dec. 30, about 1,000 civilians have been shot, hacked or burned to death in nighttime terrorist assaults. The attacks are popularly and officially suspected of being the work of Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas, but in some cases are also blamed on government-armed militias, the security forces themselves or free-ranging warlords and bandits.

News services and Algerian newspapers reported Thursday that about 30 more people died in two raids near Algiers and in the western region of Relizane, where more than 400 people in four villages died in a single night of carnage on the last day of 1997. This was the grisly record-setting episode that precipitated the latest round of international concern.

In the affected area of Relizane, about

240 kilometers (150 miles) southwest of Algiers not far from the port city of Oran, reports said terrorized villagers were fleeing the countryside for the relative safety of the cities.

This is already the worst Ramadan in six years of armed struggle between government security forces and a murky array of Muslim guerrilla armies seeking to topple the government by traumatizing the countryside. The terror campaign began after the government canceled the final round of 1991 elections that an Islamic party was on the verge of winning.

In addition to the European Union diplomatic mission, which will most likely not be formally approved until next week, a delegation of European Parliament members is preparing to visit Algeria in February.

According to Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a member of the European Parliament who is organizing the nine-member mission, the European lawmakers will discuss with their Algerian counterparts how their country can move from "a culture of violence" to "a state of law."

Mr. Cohn-Bendit said Algeria had an interest in cooperating with any European initiative because it seeks admission to the United Nations as an associate member.

The Algerian government is not likely to permit a full-scale international fact-finding commission to investigate the massacres. And many Western governments are loath to act in any way that might weaken the Algerian regime as a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism or threaten petroleum and natural gas contracts with the West.

GERMANY: Surveillance Returns

Continued from Page 1

"This represents a massive violation of the constitutional protections and editorial privacy," said Hermann Meyn, chairman of the national union of journalists. "Informants will no longer feel safe talking with journalists in their homes or in their offices. We will not be down and accept the loss of this press freedom."

Leaders of the Social Democrats, whose support was necessary because they control the Bundestag, the upper house of Parliament, said they agreed to back the legislation after winning assurances that some professional groups, such as priests and lawyers, would not be subjected to eavesdropping. They also stressed that police would have to obtain court permission in advance for any kind of surveillance activity.

The restrictions on telephone taps and mail intercepts were relaxed only during a national emergency two decades ago when Germany confronted a wave of terrorist activities.

Gerhard Vogler, chairman of the German police union, said law enforcement time they would be able to use eavesdropping equipment in private residences after a crime has been committed in order to gather evidence.

But he lamented that the legislation could prove too little and too late in coping with the escalation in car thefts, drug trafficking and prostitution rings now practiced by international crime syndicates across Europe.

IRAN: U.S. Ponders the Potential for Talks

Continued from Page 1

[The White House also said that Mr. Clinton's foreign policy advisers would examine the policy on restricting cultural exchanges with Iran in light of Mr. Khatami's remarks. Reuters reported.]

[The White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, asked whether the United States would consider lifting visa restrictions to allow cultural exchanges with Iran, said the rules would be reviewed: "In the aftermath of President Khatami's interview last night, that will be examined by the president's foreign policy advisers. It's way too soon to speculate on what, if any, action may result."]

A response to Mr. Khatami's speech drafted by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Samuel Berger, the national security adviser, included a call for the first talks since the overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in 1979. Previous U.S. statements set conditions for such talks — that they be officially authorized and acknowledged in public — but did not propose that talks begin.

Three vital questions, all fiercely debated in recent weeks by specialists in and out of the administration, remained unanswered by the interview with the correspondent Christiane Amanpour.

Officials said they had no consensus yet on the extent of Mr. Khatami's struggle with the hard-line clerics who lead Iran, on who is winning the struggle or on what Mr. Khatami's motives may be for what nearly every analyst described as a remarkable overture.

Those who see a struggle with the religious leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei pointed to Mr. Khatami's

lengthy discourse on the virtues of American civilization as a model of religion and liberty and a "harbinger of independence struggles" for other peoples, including Iranians.

"Not only do we not harbor any ill wishes for the American people, but in fact we consider them to be a great nation," he said.

That vision of America comes in stunning contrast to the Iranian rhetoric of two decades, of "the Great Satan" and "the center of global arrogance" — the subjugator of other peoples, that is, and the principal source of evil in the world.

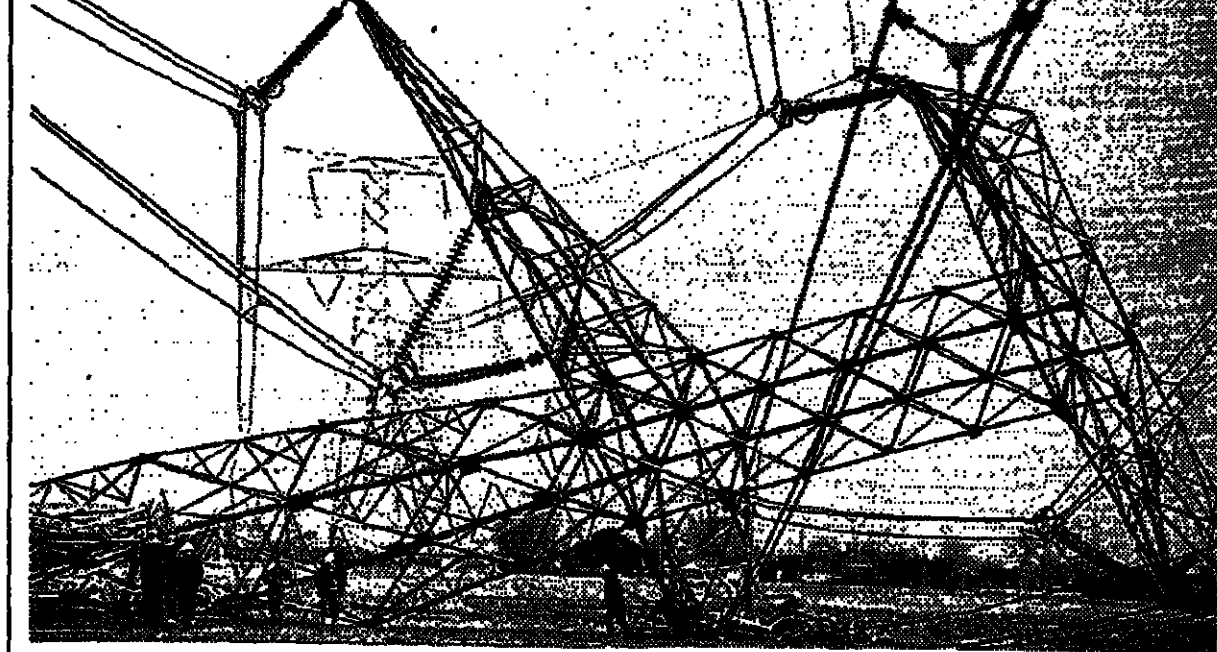
"We have simply not heard anything like this before," said an administration official known for a hard-line view toward Iran. "I frankly find it encouraging that he is doing this in public rather than try to do it in secret."

Skeptics in and out of the administration noted Mr. Khatami's statements of allegiance to Ayatollah Khamenei and his attacks on U.S. administrations since World War II as "adventurers" bent on a "flawed policy of domination."

They also pointed to Mr. Khatami's repetition of the formula that "supporting peoples who fight for the liberation of their land is not, in my opinion, supporting terrorism."

The Clinton administration, like its predecessors, accuses Iran of material and ideological support for Islamic militants, including Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, whose attacks on Israel commonly result in civilian casualties. In the interview, Mr. Khatami referred to Israel as a "racist terrorist regime."

The most critical disagreement among Mr. Clinton's advisers is whether



DOWN AND OUT — Firemen examining the wreckage of a high-voltage electric pylon Thursday in Saint-Omer-Cappelle. It was toppled by a tornado that ripped through six coastal towns in northern France.

Mr. Khatami intended his interview as a genuine overture to the United States or a wedge between it and its Western allies. Some officials said they suspected it to be a form of rhetorical judo, aimed at ending Iran's isolation and isolating the U.S. policy on Iran.

Mahmud Afshari, director of the Foundation for Iranian Studies, echoing some administration officials, said: "My own idea is that this is more in terms of

giving a more rational, moderate image of Iran, to strengthen Iran's ties with other potential partners — in the Arab world, in Europe and in Asia."

Mindful of the disastrous results of secret efforts in the past, most notably the Iran-contra affair of the 1980s, the Clinton administration has insisted, as the State Department spokesman James Rubin put it Wednesday night, that "a dialogue between the United States and Iran

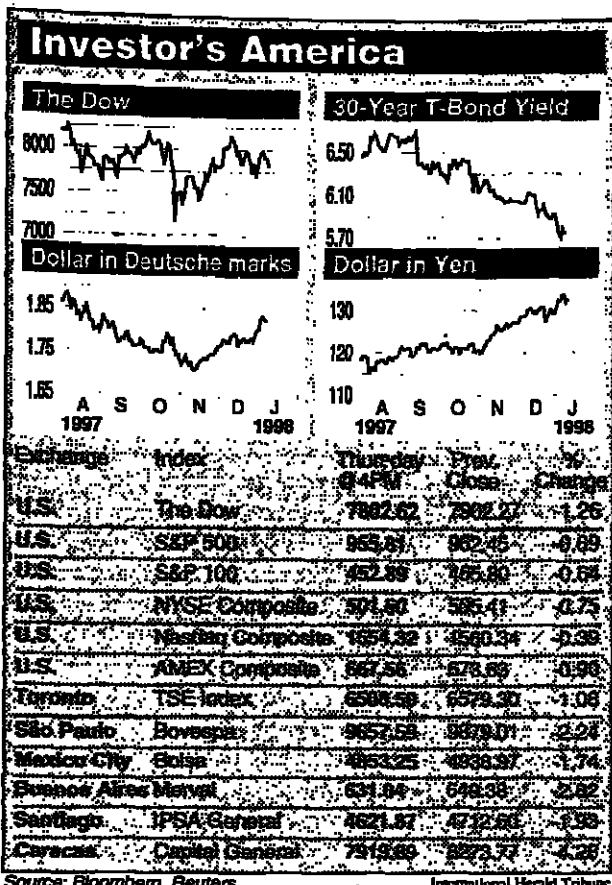
must be an authorized dialogue, it must be one that is openly acknowledged."

But open acknowledgment goes only so far, and senior officials said they did not feel obliged to disclose whether preliminary feelers — talks about talks — were in prospect or under way.

Asked whether either side had approached the other through intermediaries, two officials central to U.S. Middle East policy declined to reply.

هنگامی که اولین

THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

- Toys 'R' Us Inc. plans to buy back \$1 billion, or 11 percent, of its own stock over four years, and said it had adopted a shareholder-rights plan that would help thwart a hostile takeover, although it said it did not think it had been targeted.
- Texaco Inc. plans to spend as much as \$500 million exploring coal-bed methane gas reserves in eastern China; the company also said it was in preliminary talks to jointly develop oil projects in Kazakhstan with China's National Petroleum Corp.
- Amazon.com Inc. resumed service on its bookstore site on the Internet on Thursday morning after it shut down the site because of technical problems Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. The company offered a 10 percent discount to customers who visited the on-line store while it was down.
- Brazil's inflation rate slowed in 1997 to the lowest annual pace in 47 years. Consumer price increases in greater Sao Paulo slowed to 4.86 percent in 1997, from 10.03 percent in 1996. Inflation has not been so low in Brazil since 1950, when inflation was 3.59 percent.
- Dow Jones & Co. named Paul Ingrassia, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, president of its Dow Jones News Service unit. Mr. Ingrassia, 47, had been executive editor of the news service since 1995 and chief operating officer since 1996. He replaces Carl Valenti, who is retiring.

Analysts Cut Chrysler Estimates

DETROIT — Chrysler Corp.'s 1998 earnings estimates were lowered by as much as 10 percent on Thursday by some analysts, who cited higher-than-expected incentives and costs related to the redesigned 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

The automaker's chief executive, Robert Eaton, told analysts at a meeting that 1998 incentives were likely to be unchanged from 1997's average of \$1,100 per vehicle. Chrysler stock was down \$2.3125, at \$32.6875 in late trading.

Dollar Rallies On Doubt Yen Will Get Help

NEW YORK — The dollar rebounded against the yen Thursday as concern faded that U.S. and Japanese officials were planning to join in selling the U.S. currency to curb its gains.

The dollar regained most of the three yen it lost Wednesday as traders' focus shifted back to Japan's flagging economy and troubles in its financial system.

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At 4 P.M. the dollar was at 132.695 yen, up from 131.855 yen at the close Wednesday though down from the five-and-a-half-year high of 134.43 noticed earlier in the day.

But the dollar was lower against most major European currencies as currency traders reacted to the decline in U.S. stocks.

The dollar fell to 1.8215 Deutsche marks, from 1.8258 DM. The U.S. currency also dipped to 6.0925 French francs from 6.1040 francs a day earlier, and to 1.4755 Swiss francs from 1.4765 francs.

But the pound stood at \$1.6125, compared with \$1.6258.

Microsoft Now in the Dashboard

REDMOND, Washington — Microsoft Corp. has introduced an operating system for personal computers that can slide into a slot in a car dashboard or fit in the palm of a hand.

The Palm PC and Auto PC software will widen the family of products that run on Microsoft's Windows CE 2.0 operating system, Craig Mundie, senior vice president for consumer platforms, said Wednesday night at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The software will be delivered to hardware companies — including Casio Computer Co., Philips Electronics NV and Clarion Co. — in the first quarter, he said.

Windows CE was introduced in October 1996, and Mr. Mundie said 500,000 hand-held PCs have been shipped with the system since then. Palm PC devices will compete with the market-leading PalmPilot, made by 3Com Corp.

The Auto PC is about the size of a car radio and combines the features of an electronic organizer, pager, radio, electronic navigator and compact-disk player. It uses speech recognition to allow drivers to keep their hands on the wheel while using the device to listen to electronic mail or check traffic conditions.

Stocks Slip on Fears About Overseas Profit

NEW YORK — Stocks fell Thursday, dropping for a third day as further setbacks in Asian markets raised concern that overseas profit of banks such as Citicorp and Chase Manhattan Corp. will slump.

"Corporate profits are in question, valuations are extreme and the economic background is shaky, particularly in Asia," said Henry G. Van der Eb, president of Mathers & Co. in Bannockburn, Illinois, which oversees more than \$200 million.

"We're headed for the first down January in a while."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 7,802.62, down 99.65 points. Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by a 9-to-5 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

Broader market indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index closed at 956.04, down

7.96 points, and the Nasdaq composite index finished at 1,555.55, down 6.15 points.

Indonesian stocks traded in New York declined following a drop of 12 percent in Indonesia's benchmark stock index to a four-year low.

U.S. STOCKS

The American depositary receipts of PT Indosat and PT Telkom were among the decliners.

Bank shares slumped. Tumbling currencies in Asia are expected to dent banks' trading profits, while slowing economies in the region increase the chances that businesses will not be able to pay back loans, analysts said.

The Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Bank Index fell 12.00 in late trading to 718.06, the third straight day that the index dropped more than 1 percent. Citicorp, Chase Manhattan,

I.P. Morgan, Bankers Trust New York, BankBoston and First Chicago NBD all dropped.

Two of the three most-active stocks were Phyco and MedPartners, which fell after Phyco's scuttled its planned \$8 billion purchase of MedPartners over differences on how to run the business of managing physicians' practices.

Also among the day's most active stocks was Seagate Technology, which fell after the company said it expected a "substantial" loss from operations in its fiscal second quarter, citing a steep drop in prices for computer disk drives. It was Seagate's second warning in two months.

Auto shares fell after Chrysler issued a profit warning. General Motors and Ford were lower. Talbots shares slid after the company warned it will have a steep fiscal fourth-quarter loss, instead of

an expected profit, because it needs to mark down its women's apparel after poor year-end sales.

"There's no sign of a bounce back" to come in U.S. stocks, said Michael Lyons, a trader at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co. "The Asia markets are down, you've got Seagate coming in with lousy numbers. Nothing is pointing up."

"This is a tough environment to trade in," said Michael Driscoll, senior block trader at Hambrecht & Quist.

Stocks failed to benefit from a drop in the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond to 5.74 percent from 5.79 percent.

Yields fell after the government said the producer price index declined a larger-than-forecast 0.2 percent in December, reinforcing expectations for scant inflation.

A Teen Mag From the House That Luce Built

By Robin Pogrebin

NEW YORK — A new magazine is scheduled to hit the newsstands Friday, and it is something of a significant departure for its publisher, Time Inc. — that male bastion of testosterone titles like Time, Sports Illustrated, Money and Fortune.

Teen People, a monthly aimed at teenage girls, combines the standard teen fare of beauty, fashion and boys with the People magazine formula that has proved so successful: articles about celebrities and enter-

tainment, leavened with a dose of real-life issues.

But it goes beyond the People approach into a type of service journalism that has steadily been infiltrating the Time Inc. stable to the point that it now includes everything from In Style's celebrity living rooms to Cooking Light's high-calorie goat cheese quesadillas.

Given Time Inc.'s reputation as a male-dominated company that has spoken mostly to adult male readers, Teen People also exemplifies the latest and perhaps most extreme example of how the company is aggressively extending its reach to new audiences: women, children, teenagers and minority groups.

"I've always felt that women and children are underserved," said Ann Moore, president of People, In Style, Teen People and People en Español.

"Marketing to women, writing to women is not something we traditionally did at Time. We had a lot of men's books, a lot of news magazines, but we didn't have a division that understood women. I think we have that expertise now."

Teen People is entering a crowded, intensely competitive market

and Time Inc. has gone down this road before. In 1994, the company unsuccessfully tested the teen magazine Mouth 2 Mouth, a venture that joined a graveyard already crowded with failed teen titles.

More recently, Sassy folded and was merged into Teen by Petersen Publishing, which owned both. Nevertheless, the market has grown stronger, and Teen People will jockey for newsstand attention with such heavyweights as Primedia's Seventeen (circulation 2.5 million), Gruner & Jahr's YM (2.1 million) and Petersen's Teen (1.7 million).

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Jan. 8, 1998	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opt
Grains					
CORN (CBOT)	34.00	33.50	33.75	-0.25	164.071
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
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Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75	2.70	2.72	-0.03	16.177
Soybean Meal (CBOT)	18.00	17.50	17.75	-0.25	11.213
Soybean Oil (CBOT)	24.00	23.50	23.75	-0.25	11.213
Wheat (CBOT)	2.75				

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press

12 Month		Stock	Div	Yld	PE	Stk		Low	Late	Crg
High	Low					100s	High			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300
301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400
401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500
501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600
601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700
701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800
801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900
901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000

[illegible]

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100% High	Low	Latest	Chg
23	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
24	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
25	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
26	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
27	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
28	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
29	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
30	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
31	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
32	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
33	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
34	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
35	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
36	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
37	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
38	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
39	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
40	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
41	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
42	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
43	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
44	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
45	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
46	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
47	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
48	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
49	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
50	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
51	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
52	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
53	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
54	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
55	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
56	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
57	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
58	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
59	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
60	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
61	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
62	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
63	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
64	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
65	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
66	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
67	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
68	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
69	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
70	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
71	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
72	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
73	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
74	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
75	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
76	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
77	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
78	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
79	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
80	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
81	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
82	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
83	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
84	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
85	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
86	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
87	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
88	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
89	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
90	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
91	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
92	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
93	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
94	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
95	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
96	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
97	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
98	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
99	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
100	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100% High	Low	Latest	Chg
101	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
102	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
103	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
104	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
105	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
106	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
107	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
108	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
109	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
110	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
111	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
112	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
113	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
114	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
115	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
116	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
117	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
118	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
119	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
120	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
121	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
122	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
123	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
124	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
125	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
126	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
127	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
128	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
129	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
130	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
131	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
132	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
133	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
134	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
135	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
136	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
137	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
138	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
139	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
140	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
141	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
142	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
143	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
144	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
145	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
146	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
147	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
148	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
149	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
150	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
151	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
152	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
153	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
154	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
155	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
156	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
157	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
158	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
159	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
160	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
161	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
162	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
163	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
164	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
165	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
166	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
167	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
168	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
169	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
170	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
171	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
172	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
173	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
174	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
175	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
176	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
177	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
178	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
179	0.00	2.2	12.5	22.00	21.75	21.75	0.25
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Stock	Div Yld	PE	100 High	Low/Latest	Change
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1011	1011	1011	1011	1011	1011
1012	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012
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Continued on Page 16

Building Bustles Time Korea
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Delta Resumes Life Cars at 2 Plants

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John's Prudence
[continued from Page 11]

Car Imports Slump

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Going Bust Takes Time In Korea

Bankrupt Firms Get Up to 20 Years of Grace

Bloomberg News
SEOUL — Hanbo Steel & General Construction Co. has been languishing in South Korea's bankruptcy court for a year now, and still none of its creditors have been paid.

Just as the company's collapse was a portent of the perils of years of reckless expansion, its bankruptcy experience shows how hard it will be for the country to recover.

This year, about 500 Seoul-based companies have followed Hanbo in legal proceedings. Companies mired in legal proceedings cannot restructure to help pull Korea out of an economic crisis that will all but wipe out growth this year.

"The process has got to be hastened," said Richard Samuelson, head of research at SBC Warburg in Seoul. "The excess workers and excess costs have to be flushed."

For that to happen, big changes are needed, analysts said. For instance, Seoul courts, which oversee almost all the nation's insolvency cases, have just four bankruptcy judges, and current rules allow companies up to 20 years to work out their bankruptcies.

"It's easy for companies to abuse the current system," said Kim Young Ha, a manager at Korea First Bank. He leads the bank's team seeking repayment from another Hanbo Group affiliate.

Korea First itself may be shut down by the government—its non-performing loans amounted to 16.7



THEY JUST WON'T MOVE — A sales lot in Seoul filling up with used cars on Thursday as South Korea's economy remained in the doldrums, with unemployment reaching a four-year high.

percent of total loans at the end of September, the most of any Korean bank.

Hanbo's bankruptcy exposed a loan-for-bribery scandal that implicated presidential aides and forced President Kim Young Sam to apologize. A Korea First Bank official accused of accepting bribes in exchange for approving loans to the company committed suicide.

While the bribery scandal disappeared, the bankruptcy process grinds on.

The government failed three times to auction Hanbo to rival steel producers. The supervising judge appointed an executive from state-run Pohang Iron & Steel Co. to take the management reins.

In August, Hanbo was told it had until Oct. 15 to assemble its list of

creditors and the amount they were owed. In September, creditors sought to begin talks to sell some Hanbo assets, which they said were worth about 4 trillion won.

The October deadline for a creditors' list passed without results, and the company's lawyers now say they will try to have it ready by next month.

To be sure, bankruptcies in any country are messy and contentious. In South Korea, though, the system's problems were magnified by the abrupt collapse of so many companies. More than 15,000 companies failed last year.

For instance, Halla Group, one of the country's biggest conglomerates, went bankrupt last month with debts totaling more than 20 times its equity.

Foreign investors, too, were stiffed in some of the big failures. Jinro Ltd., the country's biggest distiller, for instance, defaulted on a \$30 million convertible bond when it went bankrupt.

Under proposals the government is now considering, companies such as Hanbo may have been shut down months ago. As part of the \$60 billion bailout agreement arranged by the International Monetary Fund last month, the government said it would write new bankruptcy laws.

Shutting down companies wholesale would be a sea change for Korea Inc. — and might trigger violent protests by Korea's labor unions. Until recently, lifetime employment was the norm here, and current law bars companies from firing unless they are financially strapped.

"There is no liquidation experience in Korea for big companies," said Chul Jung Kim, a banking analyst at Ssangyong Securities & Investment Co. "Creditors could have liquidated but they never did."

"Everyone recognizes the reality that actual restructuring is urgently needed," he added. "The change in the environment could make this be realized."

David Roche, chief strategist for Independent Strategy, a London investment advisory firm, put it more bluntly in a recent newspaper editorial:

"Capitalism without bankruptcy," he wrote, "is like Christianity without hell."

Home Prices Weaken in Hong Kong

Bloomberg News
HONG KONG — Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Hong Kong's largest property developer, sold new luxury homes this week for almost half what they fetched nine months ago.

The price — about \$1,000 per square foot — seemed unthinkable last year, when Hong Kong home prices, already three times those in New York, soared to record highs.

Now, prices are down an average 20 percent since October and still falling.

The discounts by Sun Hung Kai Properties show how hard the developer and Hong Kong's entire property market have been hit by the rising interest rates that accompanied Asia's financial turmoil.

"It just confirms the downward trend of the property market," said Stephanie Wang, an analyst at HSBC James Capel Asia Ltd.

Because seven out of 10 companies invest in or develop property here, Sun Hung Kai Properties is a barometer for corporate Hong Kong. The company accounts for almost 6 percent of the benchmark Hong Kong Index, making it the largest developer by market value.

That Hong Kong's largest developer would be willing to sell the new homes at these prices suggests that the property market is headed for more trouble, analysts said.

Shares of property companies fell Thursday on concerns about the effect of rising interest rates on earnings. Wing Tai Holdings Ltd., a real estate developer, fell to an almost five-year low on fears that the company's earnings will be hurt by higher interest rates in view of its already large debt load.

"There is concern over interest rates and their exposure to Hong Kong," said Ng Yeow Tong, an analyst at G.K. Goh Research Pte., a local brokerage.

The company recently bought land from the government at higher-than-expected market prices, analysts say. The purchases include sites on Draycott Drive and Newton Road sites in central Singapore. The company will have to pay more than 550 million Singapore dollars (about \$315 million) for the two sites, which could take its debt burden to between 60 percent to 80 percent of shareholders' equity, analysts estimate.

Other property stocks also fell, including City Developments Ltd. and DBS Land Ltd.

Investor's Asia				
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225		
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13000	1800	18000		
11000	1600	16000		
9000	1400	14000		
7000	1200	12000		
5000	1000	10000		
3000	800	8000		
1000	600	6000		
			Index	Thursday Close
Hong Kong	Hang Seng		8,254.53	9,538.81
Singapore	Straits Times		1,270.70	1,368.06
Sydney	All Ordinaries		2,650.70	2,646.50
Tokyo	Nikkei 225		15,019.18	15,028.17
Kuala Lumpur	Composite		507.16	521.00
Bangkok	SET		360.17	370.31
Seoul	Composite Index		423.96	409.42
Taipei	Stock Market Index		7,778.16	7,835.56
Manila	PSE		1,655.85	1,747.34
Jakarta	Composite Index		347.11	394.24
Wellington	NZSE-40		2,307.91	2,328.31
Bombay	Sensitive Index		3,598.16	3,683.31

Very briefly:

- Nomura International PLC said it was willing to pay between 2 billion koruny (\$55.8 million) and 5.88 billion koruny for the Czech government's minority stake in Investici a Postovni Banka AS, the CTK press agency reported.
- Yamaha Motor Co. said it would set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in Singapore as an operational center for the company's Asian business activities.
- Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.'s shares rose 6 cents to 3.08 Singapore dollars (\$1.76) as some investors sought a perceived safe haven with stable earnings amid an expected economic slowdown in Southeast Asian economies.
- NatSteel Broadway Ltd., the China-based manufacturer of electronics parts for consumer products, saw its Singapore-traded shares fall 15 cents, or 20 percent, to 57 cents, amid concern over its exposure to South Korea's Samsung Group, which announced production cuts throughout Asia.
- Clippal Industries Ltd. of Singapore said it had formed a subsidiary, Clippal Vietnam Company Ltd., to manufacture electrical-installation products.
- Atlas Co., the Japanese developer of amusement equipment, said it would launch an advanced version of its popular photo-sticker machine in Japan and the United States.
- Hongkong Telecom said its wholly owned Hongkong Telecom CSL subsidiary had completed an acquisition of the mobile-phone operator Pacific Link Communications Ltd.
- Sharp Corp. denied a report that it had decided against producing only one product — active-matrix liquid crystal display screens of 12.1 inches (31 centimeters) and larger — at a new facility in Mie Prefecture in central Japan.
- The Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. said it would raise its long-term prime rate 0.3 percentage point to 2.6 percent on Friday, from the current record low of 2.3 percent.
- Reserve Bank of India lifted a rule requiring Indian companies to seek its approval before they accepted foreign direct investment in some critical sectors such as infrastructure and other areas the government calls "priority sectors" for development.

Motorola Said to Double China Investment

Reuters
BEIJING — Motorola Inc. plans to more than double its investment in China by the year 2000, the Xinhua press agency said on Thursday.

Motorola has put \$1.2 billion into a production center in Tianjin. It plans to build a second production center in Suzhou, in the coastal province of Jiangsu, the agency quoted P.Y. Lai, the Motorola China president, as saying. By 2000, Mo-

trola's investment in China would total \$2.5 billion, he said.

All investment would come directly from Motorola's profits in China, he said. Motorola will also invest \$280 million in Leshan, in Sichuan Province, to start an export-oriented semiconductor industry, Mr. Lai said.

Motorola is confident of China's potential because of the lasting boom and the government's com-

mitment to a stable currency.

He cited China's stable political situation, high economic growth rate and foreign exchange reserves of \$140 billion as factors underscoring China's sound financial order and smooth market.

Motorola will launch its North Asia business center in Beijing this year and enhance technological cooperation with China, Xinhua said, without giving further details.

Drop in Tourism For Australia?

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GOLD COAST, Australia — The Asian economic crisis could cause a 9 percent drop in visitors to Australia this year and cost the nation about 1.5 billion Australian dollars (\$957 million), a tourism analyst said Thursday.

Alan Midwood, director of the quarterly Queensland Development Report, said he believed about 380,000 fewer people — including 240,000 tourists — would visit Australia this year.

He said the drop in visitors from most of Asia this year was likely to be in the range of 33 percent. "But this will be counteracted to some extent by possible rises of 12 percent from Europe and 8 percent from America and possibly 100 percent from China," he said.

Also Thursday, the government released retail spending figures suggesting that the strong domestic economy would battle the negative impact of the Asian crisis this year. (AP, Reuters)

ASIA: Thailand Appeals for Help From G-7 as Crisis Deepens

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Tarrin said the Group of Seven nations should coordinate efforts to lift the strength of the yen, help persuade Asia's creditors not to call back their money and work to promote trade and investment in the region.

The Group of Seven's involvement need not include extra money to support the region's economies, Mr. Tarrin said. "It's a matter of showing leadership in terms of getting together to solve this problem systematically. Just that part alone is sufficient."

"At this point the officials are just out there shooting off a lot of blanks," a currency trader said. "They need to get someone in here with real bullets, like the World Bank, the United States or Japan."

As Indonesia led the downward plunge Thursday, amid political tensions over the future role of President Suharto, Mr. Tarrin warned that future instability could come from "various other countries as well." Hours after Mr. Tarrin spoke, Standard and Poor's Corp. downgraded Thailand's long-term debt to one notch above junk-bond status.

Stock markets throughout the region

tumbled Thursday, with Hong Kong's falling almost 3 percent, Singapore's 7.5 percent, Manila's 5.24 percent and Malaysia's 2.2 percent.

Hong Kong stocks fell for a sixth consecutive day amid growing fears that the colony was losing its status as a relatively safe place for investors in Asia's currency storm. Share prices have fallen 8.69 percent in two days. Weakening currencies across Asia also cast doubt over the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the U.S. dollar. Hong Kong's interest rates were pushed up for a second consecutive day to defend that link.

And in Taipei, Taiwan's central bank was again forced to intervene Thursday to prop up the local currency.

In trading in New York, the dollar was quoted at 9,400 rupiah, up from 8,375 on Wednesday. The dollar was also quoted at 52.63 Thai baht, down from 53.15 baht; at 1,785 Singapore dollars, up from 1,741.5 dollars; at 4,705 Malaysian ringgit, up from 4.55 ringgit; at 34.33 Taiwan dollars, down from 34.41 dollars; and at 7,758 Hong Kong dollars, up from 7,736.5 dollars.

Asia's one bright spot was South Korea, the country that led the region's economic decline for the past few

weeks. The won fell only moderately and recently introduced foreign ownership laws drove buyers to lift the stock index by 3.6 percent, making Seoul the best-performing stock market in Asia this year. The dollar rose to 1,785 won from 1,741 won.

For most of the region's currencies, trading volume has all but evaporated. An average of about \$15 billion worth of each local currency was traded daily up to one year ago, while less the \$2 billion changes hands each day now, a trader said.

Speculators and investors have deserted the market, leaving only local companies desperate to pay back dollar debts and officials who attempt to slow the slide their currencies.

With their credibility under attack and no currency reserves to back up their measures, the region's governments will not be able to restore confidence without outside help, traders and economists said.

"I don't think any one country here is in a position to change the force of market sentiment," said Eric Nickerson, managing director of currency research at Bank of America. "At best, all that the individual governments can do is change little things."

The danger, Mr. Nickerson said, was that officials might be driven to take desperate measures hindering the exchange of currency, which could hurt firms with legitimate need for dollars.

Thailand recently slashed the length of time exporters could hold foreign-currency earnings and plans to announce a set of measures to discourage speculation on Friday.

The Philippines' central bank governor, Gabriel Singson, has vowed to take "drastic measures" to support the peso. The Philippines has already accelerated the creation of an onshore trading market for forward currency contracts.

With local banks now legally taking part in the hedging of currency risk, Mr. Singson said he hoped the new facility would take the "panic out of the market."

Malaysian Plan for Imports

As the ringgit fell against the dollar, Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday that Malaysia planned to work out agreements with some countries to pay them for imports in currencies other than dollars. The Associated Press reported from Kuala Lumpur.

"Under new contracts we hope that imports from the ASEAN countries, China, Pakistan and India could be made using their respective currencies," Mr. Anwar said.

The Association of South East Asian Nations includes Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Mr. Anwar said imports denominated in U.S. dollars had become more expensive following the depreciation of the ringgit against the dollar.

"The problem is compounded by the fact that not only imports from the United States and Europe are denominated in U.S. dollars, but also those from other countries," he said.

Toyota Resumes Its Production Of Cars at 2 Plants in Thailand

Bloomberg News

BANGKOK — Thailand's dwindling demand to be the "Detroit of Asia" received a small lift Thursday as Toyota Motor Corp. resumed production at its two auto plants near Bangkok after a two-month stoppage because of slow sales.

While Toyota's factory lines are back in business, they are operating at a snail's pace, as Thailand's first recession

sion in 30 years and disintegrating economies throughout Asia have snuffed demand.

General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. have already scaled back their plans for Thailand, worried that slack demand would leave production facilities idle.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense to have sheet metal rusting in a rice paddy," said Louis Hughes, the GM executive vice president who this week said the company would slash 25 percent from its original \$750 million budget to build a plant in Thailand by 1999.

GM also said the plant would run at less than half the initially forecast capacity of 100,000 units a year and probably shift from making a mid-size car to a smaller car.

Toyota's \$300 million Gateway City plant, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) south of Bangkok, will produce only 300 to 400 units this month, down by about 90 percent from the last full assembly month in 1997, a spokesman said. The company's Samrong plant in suburban Bangkok is scheduled to make 2,000 units in January, 60 percent fewer than in October, the last full month of operation.

GM and Ford announced their plans for Thailand in 1996. Ford had planned to make pickup trucks and sell the majority of its 135,000-unit capacity in Thailand.

Its latest strategy is to build 50,000 units a year for the foreseeable future and try to export most of what it produces.

The cutbacks reflect a 70 percent downturn in auto sales in the past four months from the same period a year earlier, coupled with regional economic strife that has choked sales elsewhere.

In Thailand, car sales were hit by a currency devaluation in July which resulted in an emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund in August. Several tax increases required by the IMF made cars even more expensive for consumers who suddenly had less to spend.

Car Imports Slump in Japan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Hurt by an increase in the national consumption tax, sales of imported cars, trucks and buses in Japan plunged nearly 15 percent in 1997, the first decrease in five years, auto importers said Thursday.

Ford Motor Co., Volvo AB and Renault were among the biggest losers.

The association forecast that sales of imported cars would not rise in 1998 from last year's levels, another indication that Japan's economic problems would continue to weigh on other countries.

Total imports in 1997 fell to 364,882 units, compared with 427,525 in 1996, a drop of 14.7 percent, the Japan Automobile Importers Association said.

A spokesman for the association said imports were hurt by the increase in April 1997 of the national consumption tax to 5 percent from 3 percent and the elimination of a special income-tax reduction.

The import figures come as slow domestic consumption and increasing exports are fueling Japan's 1.06 trillion yen (\$7.91 billion) trade surplus.

(AP, Bloomberg)

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The marginal symbols indicate frequency of quotations respectively: (d) - daily; (w) - weekly; (b) - monthly; (q) - quarterly; (i) - irregularly; (N) - twice weekly; (i) - monthly.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Texas Rangers Sold

BASEBALL Tom Hicks agreed to buy the Texas Rangers from a group headed by Governor George Bush of Texas for \$250 million. Hicks also owns the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League. If the deal is approved by owners, the price would be the second-highest for a baseball team. Fox Sports is awaiting approval on its purchase of the Los Angeles Dodgers, a deal worth about \$350 million. (AP)

Court Jails Bomb Carrier

OLYMPICS A Stockholm court sentenced Mats Hinz on Thursday to seven years in prison for arson and attempted bombings that may have been protests against Stockholm's bid for the 2004 Olympics. Hinz, 26, was arrested in September in Stockholm carrying a bomb toward a statue used as the symbol of the Olympic bid. The arrest came on the night before the International Olympic Committee voted to hold the games in Athens. Hinz said he had not planned to detonate the bomb but had wanted to embarrass the police as revenge for alleged harassment. (AP)

Lattak Turns Down Iran

SOCCER Udo Lattek, former coach of Barcelona and Bayern Munich, turned down Thursday an offer to coach Iran in the World Cup finals. "It's not a decision against Iran but one for my family," Lattek said. (Reuters)

Eagleson Is Jailed

HOCKEY Alan Eagleson, the former head of the NHL players union head was jailed Wednesday after pleading guilty to fraud. On Tuesday, in Boston, Eagleson pleaded guilty to mail fraud and was fined \$700,000. The Hockey Hall of Fame will vote March 31 on expelling him. (AP)

Linebacker on His Feet

FOOTBALL Reggie Brown, the Detroit linebacker, who was taken from the Silverdome in an ambulance Dec. 21, is back on his feet. Brown, 23, is unlikely to play again. He will undergo rehabilitation in Houston, near his home. Brown dislocated two neck vertebrae and bruised his spinal cord. He was unable to breathe and was resuscitated by a doctor. (AP)

Chinese Swimmers Suspected of Doping
Vials Labeled as Hormones Found With Team

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
PERTH, Australia — Customs officers at Sydney Airport found vials thought to contain growth hormones in a Chinese swimmer's travel bag on Thursday.

Customs officials said the suspected hormones, banned by the governing authority of world swimming, FINA, were found during a search at Sydney Airport where 29 members of the Chinese national swimming team made a stop en route to the world championships in Perth.

A spokesman for the customs service in Sydney said that thirteen vials of liquid, packed in ice, were found in a bag belonging to a female team member. She was later identified as Yuan Yuan, a 1994 world silver medalist.

The spokesman said the vials had not been declared and were clearly labeled in English as "human somatotropin," a growth hormone that can be used as a substitute for muscle-building anabolic steroids.

"A team coach has said that he packed the bag," said John Hawke, regional director of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Customs Service.

The team members were released after some were questioned, and they later caught their scheduled flight for Perth. But the incident threw the world of competitive swimming into turmoil.

Seven members of the Chinese team tested positive for steroids before the 1994 Asian Games in Japan, two months after they won 12 out of 16 events at the world championships in Rome.

FINA officials in Perth have said they can take no action against the Chinese without actual proof of drug-taking.

Other members of the Chinese swimming team, training at a pool in suburban Perth when they received news of the incident, appeared incredulous. Returning to the team hotel nearby, they hid their faces from photographers and walked in without comment.

The Chinese team's leader, Shi Tianshu, declared that his athletes were "clean" when he arrived in Perth earlier this week. He also cautioned the Australian team's head coach, Don Talbot, to "get the facts" before pointing a finger at China following Talbot's publicly expressed doubts about the Chinese team's abstinence from performance enhancers.

Although the hormones are banned by FINA, there is no test to detect them. The vials were found during a routine search of luggage after a customs officer

became suspicious of a person traveling with the team who matched the profile of a narcotics suspect.

Customs officials said it was unlikely that any team members would be prosecuted even if lab tests proved the substance to be growth hormones, because of the small amount found.

"This time they've been caught with their hands in the cookie jar," Talbot said, adding that he was glad. "It makes a lie of the people who have been defending them."

Deryk Snelling, a British swimming official, said FINA should consider banning China from the world championships, which began in Perth on Wednesday and end on Jan. 18.

"It'll penalize a lot of innocent people, but it's the only way they'll get the message," Snelling said. "It seemed to us that they had learned their lesson after what happened in 1994, but obviously they haven't. I must admit I'm pretty shocked but it has reinforced the suspicions."

The veteran Australian swimming coach, Forbes Carlile, said FINA's lenient approach had contributed to the doping problem. He said FINA had wasted time attacking Winfried Leopold, head coach of the German team, for admitting past doping activity instead of targeting the Chinese.

Leopold regained his accreditation for the championships on Thursday after a judge in the Western Australian Supreme Court decided a case could be made that FINA had denied him justice when it withdrew his accreditation. FINA had withdrawn Leopold's accreditation after he said to reporters on arrival that he had been involved in doping as a coach in East Germany in the 1980s.

"They're so damn clumsy, trying to grandstand," Carlile said of FINA. "Instead of trying to republish an East German, they should have been going after the Chinese." (AP, Reuters)

Russian Wins a Gold in Diving

Meanwhile, in the pool on Thursday, Yulia Pakhalina of Russia capped 15 years of training with a gold medal in the women's 3-meter springboard diving event. The Associated Press reported from Perth.

Pakhalina, 20, has been coached by her father since she was 5 years old. She finished her final set of dives with a score of 544.62 points, well clear of Jin Jing Guo of China, who had 518.76.

Chantelle Michell of Australia moved up from 10th place after the semifinals to take the bronze.



A Chinese swimmer, Yuan Yuan, being escorted by a customs officer, left, and a policeman at Perth's airport.

More Q's Than A's as Golfers Tee Off

By Clifton Brown
New York Times Service

CARLSBAD, California — When David Duval and Gabriel Hjertqvist stepped to the first tee Thursday at the Mercedes Championships, the short golf winter break ended and one of the most anticipated seasons in PGA Tour history began.

Will Tiger Woods remain the tour's dominant player? Can either Phil Mickelson or Colin Montgomerie finally win a major? Can John Daly return as a force in the game? Will the majors continue to be dominated by younger players? Or can over-40 veterans like Greg Norman, Nick Faldo and Nick Price still play their best when it matters most?

The answers will unfold throughout the year, but this week, the competition and the pressure begin. The tour has never been deeper, the prize money has never been bigger, and winning consistently has never been harder.

Ask Ernie Els, the defending U.S. Open champion and one of the world's top players. He admits he enjoys lifting a beer more than lifting weights. But this off-season, Els made the decision to start working out regularly. He is looking for any edge he can get.

"To accomplish what I want to accomplish, I felt it was something I need to do," Els said.

Some of golf's most recognizable

names are hoping to bounce back from subpar seasons: Fred Couples, Corey Pavin, Payne Stewart, Craig Stadler, Tom Lehman and Daly all were without a victory on the tour last year.

None of those players qualified for this week's 30-man field at La Costa Resort and Spa, reserved for 1997 tournament winners. For the 30 players competing this week, the Mercedes event represents an opportunity to make an early statement with a victory.

This week's two biggest plots involve Woods and Duval. Woods, the defending Mercedes champion, wants to set the tone for another phenomenal year by opening with a victory. Duval, who dominated the last month of 1997 with three victories, hopes to become the first golfer to win four consecutive PGA Tour starts since Ben Hogan in 1953.

Woods won last year's rain-shortened 54-hole Mercedes tournament, defeating Lehman on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff. It served as a springboard for the first six months of the season, when Woods won four tournaments, including the Masters.

But Woods hasn't won since July, and Love and Duval were far more consistent during the second half of 1997. Many expect Woods to dominate the Masters for years to come, because of his length off the tee. But in other majors Woods has never finished higher than 19th.

Meanwhile, last year's other major

winners, Els (U.S. Open), Justin Leonard (British Open), and Love (PGA Championship) believe their best golf is still ahead. Els and Leonard are still in their 20s, and Love is only 33.

"I'd love to win the money title, the scoring title, and all four majors at least once," Love said. "I'm striving for consistency. That keeps you motivated."

Last Round in Florida

An 85-year-old former professional golfer shot the manager of a public golf course twice in the chest Wednesday, then killed himself in the pro shop. The Associated Press reported from Mount Dora, Florida.

Ernie Tardiff was angry at being reprimanded by the management for driving his golf cart on the greens and disrupting others' games by moving to tees before they were done, police said.

The board of directors of the Mount Dora Golf Association had written Tardiff several letters and threatened to suspend him from the course.

Police said Tardiff walked into the pro shop Wednesday with one of the letters in his pocket and shot Douglas Passen, 58, who staggered out and collapsed near a group of men teeing off.

Tardiff walked back into the shop to call police, then turned the gun on himself. Passen was listed in stable condition after surgery in an Orlando hospital.

Slovaks Gain Tennis Final After Beating Australians

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
KAROL KUCERA and **KARINA HABSDOVA** of Slovakia ignored a fiercely partisan crowd Thursday to upset Pat Rafter and Annabel Ellwood of Australia and earn a place in the final of the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament in Perth.

The Slovak pair needed just over an hour to take the deciding mixed doubles rubber, 7-5, 6-2, for a 2-1 victory. Earlier, Habsdova had come from 0-3 down in the first set to beat Ellwood, 6-3, 6-3. Rafter took 2 hours 25 minutes to beat Kucera, 7-6, 3-6, 7-3.

Slovakia will now meet either France or South Africa, who face off on Friday to settle the other place in the final Saturday.

The French duo Mary Pierce and Cedric Pioline beat the United States, the defending champion, 3-0.

Pierce took 52 minutes to beat Chandra Rubin, 6-0, 6-3, and Pioline never appeared extended as he beat Jonathan Stark, 6-4, 6-3.

The French pair won the mixed doubles, 6-4, 7-6. Brett Steven upset Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, Thursday at the Australian men's hard-

court championships in Adelaide. Steven, a New Zealander, beat Kuerten, 6-3, 6-3. Kuerten, seeded second, became the seventh out of eight seeded players to be dumped from the event before the quarterfinals.

Steven will play Andre Agassi, who beat Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, 6-4, 6-3. Magnus Norman, seeded No. 4, retired from his second-round match against French qualifier Jerome Golmard after twisting his left ankle in the first game of the third set. Norman won the first set, 6-1, but lost the second, 6-2.

Todd Woodbridge, seeded No. 5, won a three-set encounter with German qualifier Jens Knippschild, 6-7 (8-10), 6-2, 6-4.

Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the No. 1 seed, joined the list of seeded casualties at the Australian women's hard-court championship in Gold Coast when shoulder strain forced her to quit her quarterfinal match against Venezuela's Maria Vento. Schultz-McCarthy, from the Netherlands, trailed, 4-0, in the opening set when she pulled out. She said that because of gusting winds on Thursday, she had to adjust her serve,



Cedric Pioline winning for France.

putting extra strain on her shoulder. Ruxandra Dragomir, the No. 2 seed, also complained about the wind after she lost to Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Monica Seles is skipping the Australian Open, a tournament where she has never lost, for "personal reasons." Her father, Karoly, who is her coach, is suffering from stomach cancer.

Seles has played the Australian Open four times, winning each time. Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, twice a finalist at Melbourne, withdrew because of a wrist injury. (AP, Reuters, AFP)

THE INTERMARKET

GENERAL

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SCSP: 32.73 SCSP: 30.80

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SPORTS

Heat Scald Bulls In 99-72 Victory

The Associated Press
The Miami Heat sent the Chicago Bulls to their most lopsided loss in nearly two years, but the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson, was not around to see most of it.

NBA ROUNDOUP

Jackson was ejected in the first half for protesting a technical foul on Dennis Rodman, as the Bulls lost 99-72, Wednesday in Miami.

"We've got the rings. They ain't got no rings," Rodman said. "They beat us. It's one of 82. It's not a big deal."

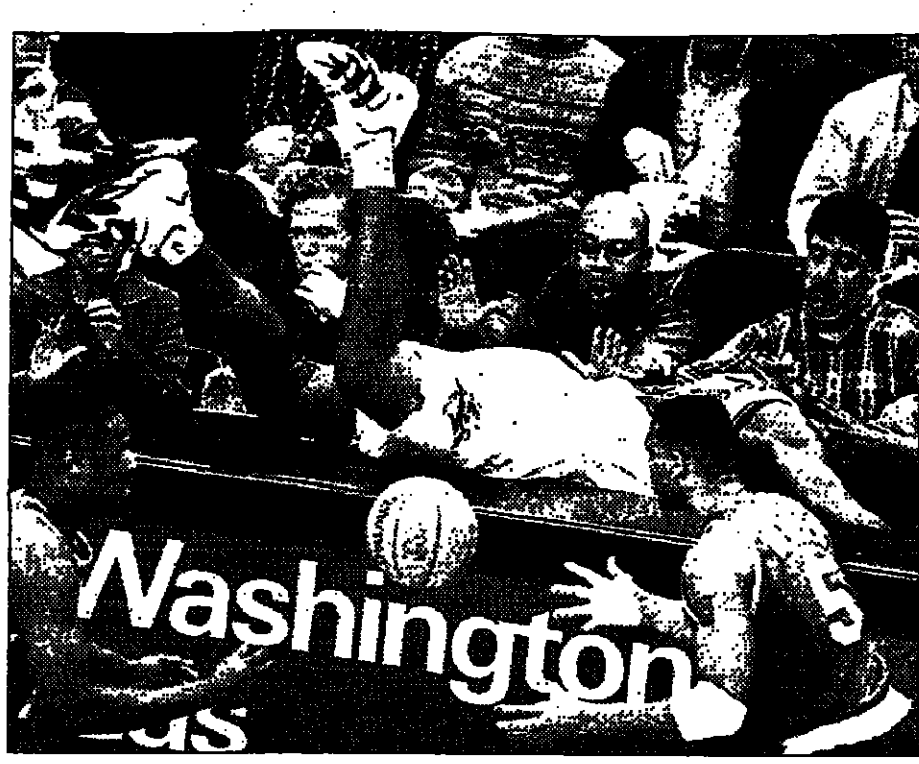
Spurs 96, Nuggets 89 Denver set a team record with its 15th straight loss. The Nuggets dropped to 0-18 on the road.

Wizards 110, Celtics 108 Antoine Walker scored 49 points, the most by a Boston player since Larry Bird hit 49 on March 15, 1992. But, the Celtics lost in Washington.

The Wizards led, 110-107, with 10 seconds left when Juwan Howard called a time-out, but Washington had none left. The referee called the technical foul, and Dana Barros made the shot for Boston, then missed a 3-point shot as time expired.

Five years ago in the NCAA championship game, Chris Webber, now a Wizard, and Howard played for Michigan. In that game, Howard called a time-out but Michigan had none left. This time, Webber gave Howard a big grin.

Clippers 110, Grizzlies 102 The Clippers won their fourth



Wizards' Terry Davis diving over the scorers' table trying to keep the ball inbounds.

Senators Shut Out the Stars, 2-0

The Associated Press
Damian Rhodes stopped 34 shots as the Ottawa Senators shut out the Stars in Dallas.

The Senators won, 2-0, on Wednesday night, despite being outshot 34-17.

Dallas, the team in the National Hockey League, had been unbeaten in its last 10 games.

Chris Murray and Magnus Arvedson scored for the Senators.

Brins 2, Canadiens 1 Steve Heinze scored with just under two minutes left in overtime, giving Boston a victory at Montreal.

It's the Battle of the Backs

Broncos vs. Steelers Will Be Won on Ground

By Gerald Eskenazi
New York Times Service

Jerome Bettis, the Pittsburgh Steelers' usually cheerful running back, is annoyed with the Denver Broncos' Terrell Davis, his chief rival for the title of the American Football Conference's No. 1 running back.

The two men will clash Sunday in Pittsburgh for the conference championship, with the winning team facing the 49ers or the Packers in the Super Bowl.

Bettis has all the respect in the world for Davis, whose running style is that of a jumbie, while Bettis' approach is personified by his nickname, the Bus, bestowed on him by Notre Dame students during his college career.

Bettis looked at a newspaper photo posted in the locker room and was not amused. The picture showed a stack of shirts emblazoned with Davis, who has the Super Bowl XXXII logo behind him. Bettis is saying, "Salute this!" The salute is Davis' way of acknowledging the Denver fans when he scores.

"When they have T-shirts they're already making, that's a blatant lack of respect," Bettis said. "So when you see that type of thing you just catalog that in the back of your head and say, O.K., we'll see if you guys get a chance to wear those shirts or you have to burn them."

Bettis also doesn't like the salute, saying, "It works for them, but it kind of backfires every time they lose a game because people find a way to throw it back in their faces."

There is one thing that the running backs agree on.

"I think primarily it will be a running game," Davis said.

"I think we have to run the football," Bettis said. "That's first and foremost. If we can't run the football, we won't do it. We've had to run the football for the last 17 weeks."

The Steelers are only the seventh team since the 1970 merger of the two leagues to lead the conference in rushing offense and rushing defense. The Steelers' defense and Bettis won the last battle of the running backs on Dec. 7, when they faced the Broncos. Bettis churned out 125 yards, while Davis was held to one of his lower totals of the season, 75 yards. Pittsburgh won. Overall, though, Davis led the conference with his 1,750 yards, second in the National Football League to the Detroit Lions' Barry Sanders. Bettis was third at 1,665.

Bettis remains one of the great Steelers steals. He was the Rams' first-round draft pick in 1993, but soon clashed with management.

After his third season with the Rams, he saw Lou Holtz, his former coach at Notre Dame. "Some impostor was wearing your uniform last year," Holtz said. Bettis had been slowed by an ankle injury and failed to gain 1,000 yards for the first time. Then on draft day in 1996, the Rams picked Lawrence Phillips. The Steelers wheeled a deal out of the Rams, giving second- and fourth-round choices in exchange for Bettis and a third-round pick. In his first season with the Steelers, Bettis amassed 1,431 yards. Now, for a second straight season, the Steelers have voted him the team's most valuable player.

At 5 feet 11 inches and 250 pounds, he seems to be the perfect complement to Kordell Stewart, whose ability to run and throw is rarely seen in NFL quarterbacks.

When Stewart was elevated to the starter's role, Bettis made sure that they got to know each other. They roomed together the week the team was in Ireland for an exhibition game. Bettis told the young quarterback he thought they could make it to the Super Bowl.

Having Kordell as quarterback has added a new dimension," Bettis said. "They have to stop him as a runner and as a passer."

Bettis talks about consistency as his hallmark. He even sees a connection with his other favorite sport, bowling. He has a 200 average. "The pacing and self-discipline — you have to be consistent in throwing the ball the same way," he said. "To be a great running back, you have to be consistent week in and week out. You can't just run 40 yards one week and then have a big week the next."

One other thing in his life remains consistent — the devotion of his family. His mother, father, sister and brother will be at Sunday's game. They have attended almost every one of his games since high school.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

Atlantic Division	West Division
1. New York 19, 14, 27, 24	1. Los Angeles 22, 11, 27, 24
2. New Jersey 17, 15, 31, 4	2. Portland 20, 11, 27, 24
3. Philadelphia 16, 16, 30, 5	3. Sacramento 19, 13, 24, 16
4. Washington 16, 16, 30, 5	4. Golden State 18, 12, 23, 19
5. Charlotte 15, 18, 25, 7	5. Utah 17, 13, 24, 16
6. Miami 14, 17, 29, 8	6. San Antonio 16, 16, 30, 5
7. Orlando 13, 16, 30, 5	7. Houston 15, 18, 25, 7
8. Boston 12, 15, 31, 4	8. Dallas 14, 17, 29, 8
9. Cleveland 11, 14, 31, 4	9. Minnesota 13, 16, 30, 5
10. Detroit 10, 13, 24, 16	10. Vancouver 12, 15, 31, 4
11. Indiana 9, 12, 23, 19	11. Denver 11, 14, 31, 4
12. Chicago 8, 11, 27, 24	12. Phoenix 10, 13, 24, 16
13. Milwaukee 7, 10, 23, 19	13. New Orleans 9, 12, 23, 19
14. Toronto 6, 9, 16, 23	14. Memphis 8, 11, 27, 24
15. Pittsburgh 5, 8, 16, 23	15. San Diego 7, 10, 23, 19
16. New York 4, 7, 14, 21	16. Cleveland 6, 9, 16, 23
17. Philadelphia 3, 6, 13, 20	17. Detroit 5, 8, 16, 23
18. Washington 2, 5, 12, 19	18. Chicago 4, 7, 14, 21
19. Orlando 1, 4, 11, 18	19. Milwaukee 3, 6, 13, 20
20. Boston 0, 3, 10, 17	20. Toronto 2, 5, 12, 19

MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES

Division I	Division II
1. Duke 81, North Carolina 50	1. Stanford 77, Penn State 56
2. Kansas 77, Texas Tech 56	2. Maryland 71, Florida State 56
3. Kentucky 77, Tennessee 56	3. North Carolina 71, Vanderbilt 56
4. Arizona 77, Arizona State 56	4. Wake Forest 71, Virginia 56
5. Texas 77, Texas A&M 56	5. Alabama 71, Mississippi State 56
6. Illinois 77, Indiana 56	6. Arkansas 71, Mississippi State 56
7. Michigan 77, Ohio State 56	7. Kentucky 71, Tennessee 56
8. Wisconsin 77, Iowa 56	8. Duke 71, North Carolina 56
9. Oregon 77, Washington 56	9. Kansas 71, Texas Tech 56
10. California 77, UCLA 56	10. Kentucky 71, Tennessee 56

CRICKET

Test Match	Result
1. Sri Lanka vs. Zimbabwe	Sri Lanka won by 255 runs
2. South Africa vs. India	South Africa won by 255 runs
3. Australia vs. New Zealand	Australia won by 255 runs
4. England vs. Pakistan	England won by 255 runs
5. West Indies vs. Bangladesh	West Indies won by 255 runs

SWIMMING

World Championship	Result
1. Michael Klim (Australia)	Gold medal
2. Ian Thorpe (Australia)	Silver medal
3. Grant Hackett (Australia)	Bronze medal
4. David Snyders (Canada)	4th place
5. Ryan Pini (Fiji)	5th place

TENNIS

Hopman Cup	Result
1. France vs. United States	France won
2. Australia vs. Argentina	Australia won
3. Spain vs. Czech Republic	Spain won
4. Italy vs. Germany	Italy won

EUROLEAGUE

Group A	Group B
1. CSKA Moscow 78, PAOK Salonika 48	1. Real Madrid 78, Barcelona 48
2. Bayern Munich 78, Unicaja 48	2. Valencia 78, Baskonia 48
3. Fenerbahce 78, Galatasaray 48	3. Anadolu Efes 78, Beşiktaş 48
4. Aris 78, Olympiacos 48	4. Panathinaikos 78, Maroussi 48

HOCKEY

NHL Standings	Atlantic Division
1. New York Rangers 27, 13, 2, 2	1. New York Rangers 27, 13, 2, 2
2. Philadelphia Flyers 26, 14, 3, 3	2. Philadelphia Flyers 26, 14, 3, 3
3. Pittsburgh Penguins 25, 15, 4, 4	3. Pittsburgh Penguins 25, 15, 4, 4
4. Washington Capitals 24, 16, 5, 5	4. Washington Capitals 24, 16, 5, 5
5. Boston Bruins 23, 17, 6, 6	5. Boston Bruins 23, 17, 6, 6

DENNIS THE MENACE



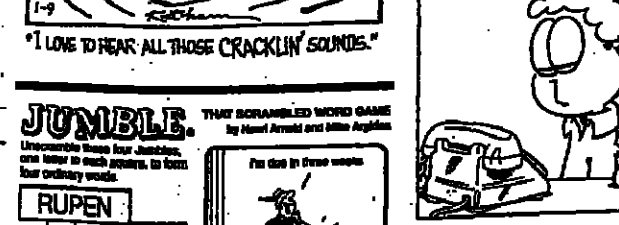
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



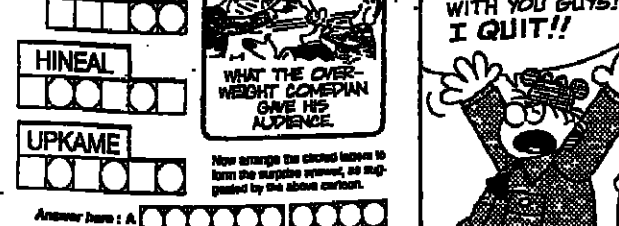
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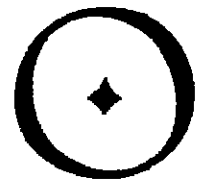
POSTCARD

Boom in Creepy Type

By Phil Patton
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Medieval and spooky, and with the quality of twisted ironwork and ruined priorities, a strange family of typefaces has moved from the graphic avant-garde to mainstream advertising and packaging.

Inspired by Jonathan Barnbrook's 1992 typeface called "Manson," "letting that at once evokes a poster for 'The Omen' and the Irish Book of Kells figures in ads for the sporty new Lexus GS sedan. The telltale letters in these typefaces are the O's — either surrounding a small diamond, or superimposed with a cross that looks like the hairs of a gun sight — and T's that look like crosses to deter vampires.



The Manson fonts are not just for car ads. Similar type decorates the "Standing Stone" CD. Paul McCartney's 1997 venture into orchestral music, suggesting something primal, ruminant and far more important than pop — part Druid and part Gregorian. It also shows up in a mix of high tech and Tolkien in computer games like "Myst" and "Riven." On paperback book covers and videotape packages, the crossed-over O's, the bodkin T's and the scythe-edge C's subliminally signal stories in the tradition of "The Exorcist" or "The Relic."

On screen, similar letters show up in credits and titles, conflating time periods into one common distant and dangerous era. The titles for the movie "Braveheart" placed Mel Gibson's Scottish insurgents in the same neighborhood as the mythological era

of Xena the warrior princess. Before desktop publishing and bit-mapped fonts, most people had no more idea of the names of familiar typefaces than of Amazon monkeys. Now, references to Helvetica or Univers sprinkle cocktail parties. And the names inevitably affect the impressions of the letters themselves.

The name Manson sparked a debate in the magazine *Emigre*, the most influential journal among the younger '90s font designers. The choice of name was a provocative, possibly self-promoting act. In their new book, "Design Literacy: Understanding Graphic Design" (Allworth), Steven Heller and Karen Pomeroy write that the whiff of Charles Manson makes the letters "kissing cousins of the swastika tattoo carved into Manson's forehead or the words 'helter skelter' that were drawn in blood on the walls of Sharon Tate's home."

Barnbrook defended the name, citing subliminal associations with "mason" and "mansion," that related to the carved-in-stone quality of the face. Responding to criticisms, the *Emigre* fonts catalogue replaced the name with that of Manson.

That such associative baggage as Manson and its kin should be smuggled into mainstream corporate design is only the latest stage in Madison Avenue's dabbling in semi-underground, slightly subversive "garage fonts."

When Fortune 500 companies grab onto twisted and blurry typefaces, they try to show how hip they are as they market to Generation X. They also risk seeming like stockbrokers in the most pit-

By David Streitfeld
Washington Post Service

PRINCETON, New Jersey — So, Toni Morrison. You're the first writer in English since Hemingway to win the Nobel Prize and yet be firmly anchored in mass culture — to have your work stacked up in warehouse discount clubs and New Jersey Turnpike rest stops.

At 66, you're at the peak of your powers. Your best-known novel, "Beloved," will be released as a big-budget movie next fall, undoubtedly sparking a re-examination of slavery that will make the noise over "Amistad" seem muted.

In an era when many good novelists feel neglected, you receive more requests to lecture, to read, to be interviewed, to participate on panels and attend conferences, to receive honorary degrees and serve on government commissions, than could be dealt with by a whole shelf of writers.

No other contemporary writer has your formidable presence, your moral authority.

But are you happy?

Morrison laughs a bit and sighs at the same time. "That's really irrelevant," she says, picking at a croissant in her office at the university here. "What is all this running around after happiness? It's very American, and very boring. Why don't we just do something constructive, something creative, and then if that makes us happy, fine. If it doesn't, at least we still have the garden, baked the bread, took care of somebody who couldn't take care of themselves, written the book..."

Written the book, yes. Morrison's seventh novel, her first since the Nobel, goes on sale in the United States this week. This is the novel as cultural event: Newsweek rushing out its review so it can beat Time, which is talking cover for next week. "60 Minutes" is doing a segment; other television shows are lining up. The publisher expects to sell hundreds of thousands of copies in the next couple of weeks

— terrific for any novel, close to unprecedented for such an uncompromising literary work.

The critics will decide if "Paradise" is Morrison's best book, but it's a safe bet that none will call it her simplest. The tale reaches back a century and roams over the country but mostly takes place in a small Oklahoma town in 1976. It would be tempting to say this is a major novelist's take on what is frequently billed as the major issue confronting America today, the one we discuss all the time yet never really talk about. Except for one thing: The whole point of the novel is to ignore race.

"They shoot the white girl first." That's the blunt first sentence of "Paradise," but a chasm separates these six words from the rest of the novel, which never mentions race so directly again.

"They" are the men from the isolated hamlet of Ruby, convinced that a handful of free-spirited women living in a former convent are the source of all their troubles. The proud history of Ruby is given, as is the background of each of the women — a mother who accidentally let her children suffocate in a car; a confused teenager. At the very end, the story circles back to the rampaging men. Only a very clever reader will be able to figure out which one of the women is the white girl. The others are black.

Morrison explains what she is up to: "The tradition in writing is that if you don't mention a character's race, he's white. Any deviation from that, you have to say. What I wanted to do was not erase race, but force readers either to care about it or see if it disturbs them that they don't know. Does it interfere with the story? Does it make you uncomfortable? Or do I succeed in making the characters so clear, their interior lives so distinctive, that you realize (a) it doesn't matter, and (b), more important, that when you know their race, it's the least amount of information to know about a person."

It's possible to read "Paradise"



Morrison's seventh comes out this week.

as exploring several sharp conflicts: the religious town vs. the "pagan" convent, those who worship money vs. those who don't, the Ruby men vs. the convent women. Morrison acknowledges that friends have already accused her of "having demonized some lovely people."

Meaning the men of Ruby?

"They didn't say that in front of my face. But they said, 'This is a strongly feminist book, isn't it?'" Meaning: "You're championing the women versus the men."

She insists: "I don't have an agenda. All I have are questions. Everything is very complicated. Yes, it could be that I could be understood to be saying that patriarchy is bad and matriarchy is good. In fact, I don't believe either of those things. I don't deal in these binaries."

Which leads to her biggest worry about the book's reception.

Ruby is an all-black community, a town that has purposefully and successfully isolated itself from the world. It's the perceived threat to this security, the attempt to make sure that "nothing inside or out rots the one all-black town worth the pain," that leads the men to attack the women. "I'm fearful they'll talk about it as a book about racist black people," says Morrison. "You think they'll do that to me?"

She chuckles. Writers passionately hate to be stuck in categories. It would be unseemly, therefore, to tag Morrison, the epitome of commercial and critical success, a "black novelist."

Except she's always wanted it

that way. When she was called a great American novelist, she would think, Ha, they're trying to say I'm not black. For her, the way into the larger tradition of literature was and is through the African American door, and she wants to make that debt explicit.

This desire is tied up with the Bill Moyers Question, which he asked in a televised interview in 1989: "Is it conceivable you could write a novel in which blacks are not at center stage?"

"Absolutely," Morrison responded. But she knew what the question really meant: Are you ever going to write a book about white people? It was, in a sense, a compliment. You write well enough, I would even let you write about me.

It's not so much that she writes about blacks. It's that her books have few whites in them. Their primary concern is not men, either. The archetypal Morrison moment occurs in her second novel, "Sula" (1974), when the title character and her friend Nel discover they are "neither white nor male, and that all freedom and triumph were forbidden to them, they had set about creating something else to be."

The white male center of the culture gave ground only grudgingly. No one ever told Solzhenitsyn: "So, enough with these gloomy Russians already. When are you going to write a novel set in Vermont?" But Morrison has fielded criticism like that for much of her career.

In the New York Times Book Review in 1977, Reynolds Price wrote that one of the few problems with Morrison's breakthrough epic "Song of Solomon" was "the understandable but weakening omission of active white characters." You can't tell the story of the American racial tragedy from just one side of the color lines, he felt.

But 20 years later, Price says he has changed his mind: "I don't feel that need anymore. Her own imaginative world has proven itself to be a rich and entirely inclusive view of the human race."

CARS

Havana and the Vintage Chariots of Chrome

By Joseph Giovannini
New York Times Service

HAVANA — In the exotic, car sweepstakes, even the bulletproof, see-through popemobile will have competition when the pontiff visits Cuba on Jan. 21. No country, not even a state of mind like Los Angeles, has a more nostalgic collection of post-World War II American cars than Cuba, to judge by the two- and three-ton specimens that time and history have left behind and running on the dilapidated streets of Havana.

Detroit's days of glory coincided with Havana's nights of glamour, when men smoked status cigars and sported cars with major-league fins. Those muscular American cars now strut their whitewalls against the peeling backdrop of the once rich and handsome capital. These trophy autos are stranded in a threadbare city, the talismans of one culture thriving conspicuously in another.

The men who own these private cars (and in Cuba, they are almost exclusively a man's thing) dote on their chromed prizes; yet, Havana itself is architecturally exhausted, the signs of deep, sustained economic crisis and an ambivalence about property written on nearly every facade. The cars are preserved: the buildings are crumbling. With a Latin flare for architecture, 20th-century Havana fostered bold strokes of modernism in the heart of the city, and in the new suburbs spawned by the car. Architects shared with Detroit an optimism about progress through design, and with carpenter and double garages they made conspicuous room in their futuristic structures for aerodynamically suave automobiles. Detroit's cars had worthy buildings to cruise up to: car and house returned each other's compliments.

If the city is still largely intact, rather than bulldozed by developers, it is because Fidel Castro has simply pursued a



Havana is a time capsule of the auto industry.

policy of benign neglect in Havana — though after nearly 40 years, the neglect shows.

A visitor's eye splits its time between the sadly deteriorated facades and the chrome barges — Technicolor cars, driving around in a black-and-white movie.

Hunky '55 Buicks, with chrome grilles set like the locked teeth of a grinning piranha, were popular then, and now, as well as sinuously streamlined Chevys from the mid-'50s. "Cars of Cuba" by Cristina Garcia, Joshua Greene and D.D. Allen (Harry N. Abrams, 1995) counts 5,413 registered Chevys in Cuba.

Then there are the monumental Ca-

dillacs from the stylish decade when that pert and classy upright fin came attached, like a dollar sign, to a long series of subtly refined designs that conquered the known world. A Cadillac was a Cadillac, but some sophisticates preferred the period's great boats, the Lincoln Continental four-door.

Beyond the obvious trophies that Lucy and Desi might have driven on the arcaded Malecon (the ocean-side promenade, which today is nearly shopless), there are recherché specimens, like the Hudson Hornets of the mid-'50s, or the even rarer Kaiser, with widow's peaks over the windshields, and hood and fenders stretched tight like an overenthusiastic face-lift.

Occasionally, one of the low-slung, snarky Raymond Loewy Studebakers — too much ahead of its time to be successful — rounds a corner, and once in a long vacation, the Avanti, Loewy's last Studebaker, makes a cameo appearance. As if to drive gringos mad, "woodies" (wood-paneled station wagons) are occasionally seen playing the northern coastal roads.

For Americans, the cars may seem like collectibles, but for Cubans they are transportation. Many gas-guzzling geezers earn their keep as taxis, wedding-day chariots and tourist toys. Their owners keep them going by cannibalizing other cars, including Russian jeeps. Hemingway's woodie from the '40s and his red Chrysler convertible, circa 1956, have long since vanished, but there is little doubt that their body parts have been recycled into *cucharras* (a term of endearment, loosely translated as "jalopies").

The tender loving paint jobs make it clear that sometimes a car is not just a car. The Yves Klein blue on a '55 Mercury is a color of love. Occasionally, the car is painted to match the house, out of the same bucket of paint. Look closely, and you often see brush strokes.

THE directors Neil Jordan, Oliver Stone and Bertrand Tavernier and the actors Dennis Hopper and Morgan Freeman will be among the stars making appearances at the 25th Brussels International Film Festival this month. They will be presented with special trophies, awarded to people who have made a lasting contribution to the film industry. There will be a special tribute to Hopper, who has been making and appearing in films since 1955, with screenings of 11 of his classics.

A man employed by the royal palace in Copenhagen to handle household purchases for Prince Joachim has been charged with misusing the prince's credit card to buy 700,000 kroner (\$100,000) in goods and services for himself, reports said Thursday. The man used the card of Queen Margrethe's youngest son to buy furnishings, clothes, shoes and wines for himself, the celebrity-oriented magazine *Se og Hør* said. The man, identified by the *Eksstra* Bladet newspaper as Finn Xavier Larsen, was fired after 129 days in the job and charged in February. In an interview with *Se og Hør*, he denied any wrongdoing.

Robert Carlyle, star of the hit film "The Full Monty," says he's getting so fed up with exposure in the press that he's considering leaving his native Scotland. Carlyle says the press seizes upon his every uttering, often distorting it, and he also complains of intrusion into his private life, such as his wedding last month. "I love Scotland, I love Glasgow," he said. "But the constant sniping makes it very difficult. If it becomes impossible for me to live something like a normal life in Scotland, I could leave."

Elton John, Marianne Faithfull and the Pat Shop Boys will headline a star-studded gala concert next week celebrating the centennial of the birth of the writer, actor, composer and dramatist Noël Coward. They're a little early — Coward was born in December 1899 — but lots of names have already signed up for the Jan. 15 date. Profits will go to an AIDS organization, and the stars' combined efforts will go into an album.

Auguste Rodin's sculpture "The

PEOPLE

Kiss" is returning to a town in southern England nearly a century after it was rejected there as too erotic. The marble statue of a naked man and woman entwined in a passionate kiss, one of four similar works by Rodin, had been given to the people of Lewes in 1914. But it was quickly returned to its owners, amid fears that it would inflame the passions of the town's youth. It was later sold to London's Tate Gallery in 1937. The Tate is leading the work to Lewes for a six-month exhibition.

Oprah Winfrey's show will go on from Texas this month while she is defending herself in a federal defamation lawsuit brought by a cattle-men's group. She will tape episodes of the syndicated "Oprah" show in Amarillo, Texas, beginning Jan. 26, her production company said, days after the trial's scheduled start. The cattle-men claim that they lost millions of dollars after a show that aired April 16, 1996, during which Winfrey discussed the possibility of "mad cow" disease breaking out in the United States.

About 500 sailing craft will gather in the South Atlantic resort of Punta Del

Este, Uruguay, on Sunday for a ceremony in honor of the French undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau. The ceremony is timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the sinking of Cousteau's ship *Calypto*. "I've deeply admired Cousteau, who has arrived first at every port in the world where I've docked," Carlos Paez Vilaro, the organizer, said at a news conference. Cousteau died in June at the age of 87.

All the attention Jerry Seinfeld has received since disclosing that he will end production of his hit NBC sitcom has made him a kind of superhero in the media. So it may be appropriate that American Express Co. will soon introduce a television commercial in which Seinfeld is paired with Superman. The commercial by Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide in New York, part of the WPP Group, combines live action with animation. It is being described as the first time that the animated Superman character will appear with a celebrity for advertising purposes. Rights to Superman are owned by DC Comics, a unit of Time Warner Inc.; "Seinfeld" is produced by Castle Rock Entertainment, also part of Time Warner.



The \$100,000 Trump apartment still needs a bit of touching up.

The \$100,000-a-Month Pad

By Tracie Rozhon
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Welcome to this week's newest rental offering. Still undergoing last-minute touch-ups, it is priced at \$100,000 a month. If rented, Donald Trump's personal penthouse, at the top of Trump International Hotel & Tower at Columbus Circle — once slated to be the new home of Donald, Marla and Tiffany, now a casualty of separation — would be the highest-priced apartment rental in New York City. Ever, brokers say.

Yet, the Trump penthouse is by no means the city's only astronomically priced rental. In the last year, there have been at least 60 rentals priced at more than \$25,000 a month, according to Corcoran Group; in 1996, there were only 21.

In these days of Wall Street bonuses and co-op board rejections, renting is an increasingly popular choice. Just a year ago, agents were saying these types of rentals were almost nonexistent; now, agents complain, their only problem is finding enough of them for temporarily homeless millionaires. To meet the demand, developers are adding mega-penthouses to almost every new rental building.

Beatrice Ducrot of Stribling Associates said one of her listings, a \$27,000-a-month prewar co-op rental on Central Park West with nine rooms and a handful of terraces, had "people lined up, three or four deep, but it rented in a day. These tycoons do not just wait around."

While these rental prices seem breathtaking, \$25,000 to \$50,000 a month for luxury three-bedroom rentals in Hong Kong is not unusual. In Palm Beach, Florida, a 1920s beach house is now being rented for \$100,000 a month, but just for the season. In Beverly Hills, California, and London, the ceiling is \$35,000 a month, agents in these cities say.

2 Paintings, Perhaps Stolen by Nazis, Are Held in New York

By Judith H. Dobrynski
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — District Attorney Robert Morgenthau has taken steps to prevent the Museum of Modern Art from returning to Austria two paintings from a recent show whose provenance is clouded by Nazi wartime plundering. He said he would begin a criminal investigation into the ownership of the artworks.

Morgenthau's move to halt the transfer of two paintings by Egon Schiele joined many art professionals, who feared it would upset loan agreements among museums around the world.

Earlier in the day, Vienna's Leopold Museum, which possesses the paintings, had proposed the creation of an international fact-finding tribunal to examine the claims of two families who say they are the rightful owners. The Leopold

Museum said it would be bound by the tribunal's findings. But the Austrian museum's olive branch did not satisfy the families, who insisted that the paintings be left in the United States as insurance that the panel's process would be fair.

Morgenthau, who was asked to investigate the ownership by one of the families, said, "We've opened an investigation and are taking steps to keep the two paintings in Manhattan."

He declined to comment further, but the issuance of a subpoena indicates that his office will take the matter before a grand jury where the paintings will be used as evidence. The subpoena could bar the return of the paintings to Austria, at least for the length of the investigation, which could take months if not well over a year.

"There is no comparable instance in history," said Leopold Museum managing director Klaus A. Schroeder of

Morgenthau's actions. "This could rise up to a very big scandal, and I'm very afraid of that."

But the families reacted with joy, preferring to dwell on the development's implications for resolving ownership questions surrounding the tens of thousands of works of art that changed hands illicitly before and during World War II. The disputes have spread to several countries and are growing.

"It's fabulous," said Rita Reif, an heir to a painting, "Dead City," a somber landscape once owned by Fritz Gruenbaum, a Jewish comedian who died in Dachau in 1940. "Now we can resolve what has been a half century of great loss. This will start a process that will be important not just to us, but to others who were victims or heirs of victims of property losses during the Holocaust." Reif, a former reporter for The New York Times, still writes a column for the paper.

Henry S. Bondi, representing the other family, which claims "Portrait of Wally," a melancholic picture of Schiele's mistress, also applauded Morgenthau's action. "You know what Lenin said: 'Justice, good; control is better.'"

Others disagreed, however. "This is a polarizing development," said Constance Lowenthal, the director of the World Jewish Congress' Commission for Art Recovery. "I was sorry to learn of it."

Lowenthal, whose organization was created last fall to locate and reclaim art stolen from Jews in the 1930s and '40s, had earlier hailed the Leopold Museum's offer as momentous. She called it "an important step, and I think unprecedented." She said she knew of no other instances in which the possessor of a disputed painting offered to help organize and be bound by a panel's decision.

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